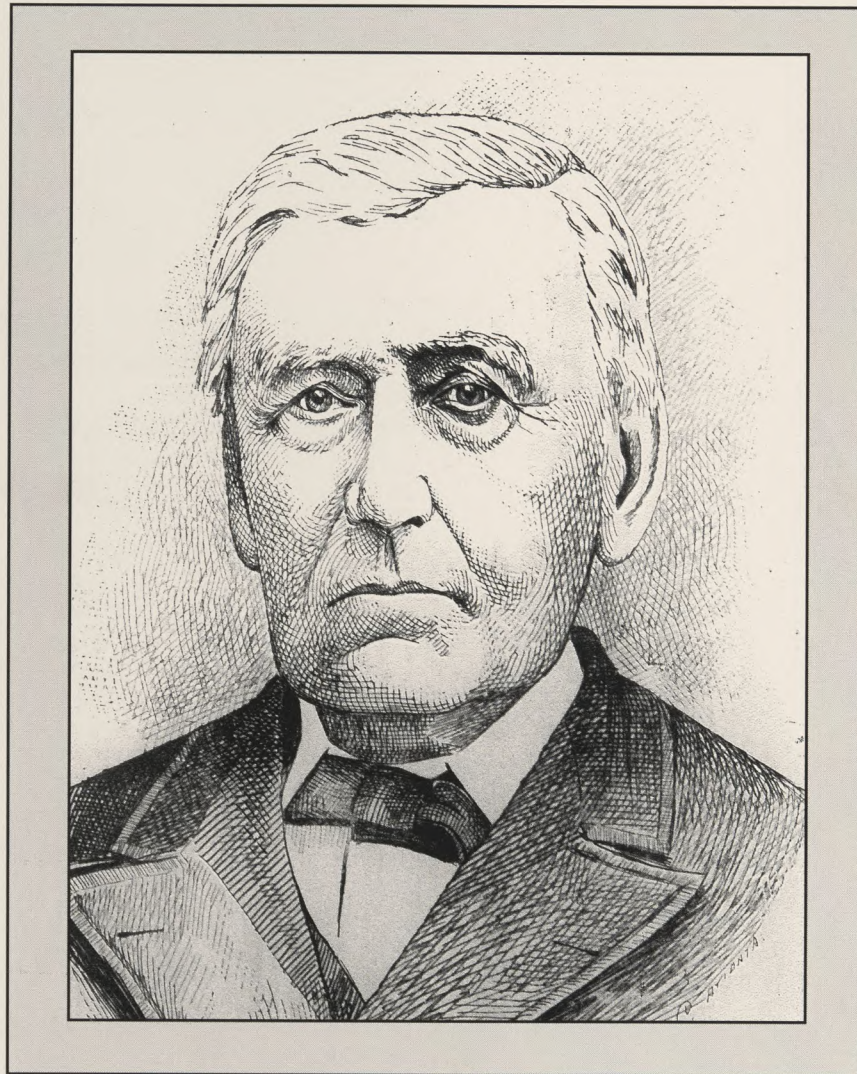


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# MUSCOGIANA



FALL 2008

VOLUME 19

NUMBER 2



## MUSCOGIANA

### Journal of the Muscogee Genealogical Society

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**MUSCOGIANA**  
**JOURNAL OF THE MUSCOGEE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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Interested parties are welcome to submit primary source material and journal articles for publication in *Muscogiana*. Submissions should either be printed on 8½ by 11 paper and mailed to the editor at the address listed below or saved as a Word document and emailed to sprayberry\_gary@colstate.edu. To be considered for publication, material must be of cultural, historical and/or genealogical significance to the Columbus/Original Muscogee County, Georgia, area that consists of Harris County, Talbot County, Marion County, Chattahoochee County, and the current Muscogee County. All articles should be footnoted according to the *Chicago Manual of Style*, and should be 1000 to 5000 words in length. The Editor and the Editorial Board make final decisions on the acceptance of material for publication. Neither the Muscogee Genealogical Society nor Columbus State University can accept responsibility for errors or inaccuracies in material submitted for publication.

Book Reviews

Book reviews of both local titles and general genealogical monographs are accepted for inclusion in *Muscogiana*. Reviews should be 350-750 words, and should contain an overview of the work and an analysis on the value of the work to genealogists and other researchers in the region. The editor maintains a list of books for review, which is available on request.

Queries

Queries are welcome from members and non-members. Queries are limited to one per issue. There are no charges for queries.

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## From the Editor's Desk

My first turn as editor of the *Muscogiana* has proven to be an enjoyable and eye-opening experience, and I would like to thank the editorial board and the Board of Directors of the Muscogee Genealogical Society, especially Callie McGinnis, for the opportunity to work on such a fine publication. I would also like to thank a few individuals who have made significant contributions to the fall 2008 issue and have helped ease the editorial transition. The outgoing editor, Reagan Grimsley, has been a veritable wellspring of advice and insight these past few months, and I know he will be missed by the readers of *Muscogiana*. I only hope I can maintain the high standards he set during his tenure. Assistant editor Sean Norman has been a pleasure to work with this fall. Without his editing and indexing skills, I would have been lost. He's a true asset to the journal. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Dr. Virginia Causey, my colleague in the History and Geography Department at Columbus State, for recommending me as the successor for Reagan. And last, but not least, I would like to thank our two contributors, Daniel B. Olds and Dr. Hugh I. Rodgers, for their wonderful submissions. Their good work has made my inaugural issue a real joy to put together.

There are a few notable changes in the fall 2008 issue of *Muscogiana*. First, we have reduced the size of the font from eleven to ten, thus lowering our printing costs. While this may cause a few of our readers (me included) to squint a bit more, we think the economic and environmental benefits are worth it. Second, one of our regular features, "Learning About the Past," will now appear exclusively in the spring issue. We plan to introduce a brand new section for the fall edition, so stay tuned for that.

Finally, I would like to remind the readers of *Muscogiana* that we still need your submissions. We are always on the lookout for good articles, book reviews, primary sources, queries, and genealogy. So if you're working on something, send it in!

Gary S. Sprayberry

Editor

On the cover:

### Portrait of Rev. Cary Curry Willis

Source: Minutes of the Sixty-sixth Annual Session of the Columbus Baptist Association  
(Columbus, GA: Thomas Gilbert, Printer and Stationer, 1894)



## **Ann Elizabeth Shepherd Home**

Information extracted by

Daniel B. Olds

from

"Charter, History and By-Laws of the Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home, Inc of Columbus, Georgia, Revised Edition 1968"

In the year 1840 a few ladies of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Columbus formed a Society called "The Ladies' Educational and Benevolent Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbus." The society had no regular income but money was raised by entertainments, membership fees and donations of all kinds. These ladies worked among the poor in the city, giving help where needed in making homes more comfortable and assisting financially in the education of deserving girls.

In 1845 the ladies enlarged their spheres of usefulness by building a Home for Destitute and Orphan Girls. On December 27, 1845 the Ladies Educational and Benevolent Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was granted a perpetual charter by an act of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia. A frame building was erected on a large lot comprising the city block between 5th and 6th avenues and 14th & 15th streets. This lot was donated by the City Council. The cost of the frame building and furnishing was \$1,385.59. This building was dedicated to the raising and educating of female orphans and destitute children on April 7, 1845 by Reverend Lovick Pierce and Reverend James E. Evans.

This building burned on the night of December 16, 1852. A home was rented in 1853 to shelter the twenty-five girls. In April 1854, through the efforts of Messrs. Richard Patten, Harry Hall, John Russe, John Jones and others, the society was presented with a new brick building, completely furnished, to be used as an Asylum for Female Orphans and Destitute Children.

On February 15, 1854 the charter was amended by changing the name of the Ladies Educational and Benevolent Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Columbus, Georgia, to that of the Ladies Educational and Benevolent Society of the City of Columbus.

The society received most of its income from the investments received from many generous friends and from rentals of various properties. In April 1883, by permission of Council, the land given to the Home by the City was divided into lots and sold for the purpose of investing in a more desirable location for the Home. \$11,000 was realized from the sale and part of the money was used for the purchase of a new home site for the orphanage. (The location of this home site is not known at this writing, due to lack of records and history kept in the past.) The rest of the money was deposited in the bank and invested in other property.

In 1924 Colonel W. S. Shepherd bequeathed to the Ladies Educational and Benevolent Society of the City of Columbus his former home. The Shepherd residence known as "Hill House," situated on approximately eight acres of land, was given as a memorial to Colonel Shepherd's mother. Colonel Shepherd stated in his will that the property must be designated and maintained as the "Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Orphans' Home" for dependent orphan girls and could not be used for any other purpose. To legally accept this bequest, the Ladies Educational and Benevolent Society of the City of Columbus had to amend their charter and change their corporate name to the "Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Orphans' Home." At the regular monthly meeting held August 1, 1924, the



following resolution was offered by Mrs. W.L. Cooke, seconded by Mrs. Hamlin Ford and unanimously adopted by the board.

"Resolved that the Board of Managers of the Ladies Educational and Benevolent Society accept the bequest of the late Colonel W. S. Shepherd, subject to all the conditions set out in his last will and testament, and will immediately take all necessary steps to comply with same, changing the corporate name of 'The Ladies Educational and Benevolent Society' to the 'Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Orphans' Home,' and that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the executors, Andrew W. Shepherd and Robert E. Farish."

The girls moved into "Hillhouse" on September 3, 1924. This would be the Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Orphans' Home for the next forty-two years.

During the year of 1963, leaders of our community became increasingly aware of the need for a home for dependent boys of Muscogee County. The Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Orphans' Home was asked to help with this; however, because of the terms of Colonel Shepherd's will, the Home could not legally house boys. The Board of Directors voted to purchase the M. T. McDowell property on Double Churches Road to build a new home. In order to accomplish this, plans for a fund-raising campaign were made and very ably carried out by Mrs. M. C. Jennings. The amount of \$127,001.42 was raised.

Plans for the new buildings were drawn, consisting of two cottage style units, each unit accommodating sixteen children and a house parent, and a building to be used for the Administrator's home and office. An existing building on the property was renovated.

The move to the new home was made in June 1965. Shortly after this was done, the Board of Directors voted to change the name to the "Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home, Incorporated."

The Home continues to be supported by income from money and stocks donated by religious, civic, military groups, and many individuals. Miss Georgia Wilkins, upon her death in 1959, left the Home \$10,000; and under the terms of the will of Mrs. Sadie O. Giglio, the Home received approximately \$185,000. At the time of the sale of Colonel Shepherd's property the Home received \$25,000. The Home has been a member of United Givers since 1956.

### Ann Elizabeth Shepherd Home Information 1845 – 1930

Names and Information Regarding Children in the Home Extracted by Daniel B. Olds, July 2008, from Minute Books Donated by the Ann Elizabeth Shepherd Home, Inc. to the Archives, Simon Schwob Memorial Library, Columbus State University, and from Census Records for the Years 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930.

Minutes of meetings for May 1870 through June 1874, December 1888 through December 1900 and the years 1907 through 1912 are missing. Some gaps in the missing Minutes were filled in by referring to the Census Records.

Minute Book labeled "Minutes 1901 to 1906" begins on page 3 with January 1901 and ends on page 26 with October 1901. Page 27 contains minutes of November 1900. Pages 32 thru 36 contain minutes of March & April 1900. Pages 37-39 contain minutes of April 1906. Page 45 contains minutes for September 1902.

In many cases, under **Researcher Clues**, one will find the phrase "noted as being in the Home." This means that the name of the child simply appeared in the Minutes or in the Census Records and there is no reference showing the exact date the child came to the Home.



In other cases, under **Researcher Clues**, one will find the phrase "Admitted to the Home," "Taken into the Home" or "Entered the Home" followed by the date the child came to the home.

In many instances the writer of the Minutes used the phrase "given to" to describe the disposition of a child. Indications are that this means that the child was adopted but this may not always be the case since children were often placed with a prospective family for "6 months probation" during which they could be returned to, or taken back by, the Home.

No information extracted from the Minute Books concerning individuals who did not appear in the 1930 census records.

### ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF ORPHAN CHILDREN

Name	Born	Researcher Clues
Abbott, Julia	1918	aka Jean Anne. Mar 1923 noted as being in the Home. Mother sick in City Hospital. Sep 1924 Jean Anne adopted by Capt. & Mrs. A.A. Roby of Camp Benning. Aug 1925 Board receives a note from Capt. and Mrs. Roby "for love and sympathy extended through the floral offering for "Gene Anne".
Albrect, Sarah J.	1849	1857 noted as being in the Home. 1860 census shows birthplace as Georgia and spells last name as Albright. 1862 given to her mother.
Alexander, Daisy	24 Mar 1917	17 Apr 1923 admitted to the Home. Had previously been adopted by a family named Hobbs. Dec 1923 entry shows mother living in Phenix City. Is listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Alexander, Emma Lee	16 Nov 1921	aka Minnie. Admitted to the Home 10 Jan 1924. Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Alexander, Leonora R.	1836	1840 census noted as being in the Home. Census shows North Carolina as birthplace.
Alexander, Inez	31 Aug 1914	Admitted to the Home 17 Apr 1923 was previously adopted by a family named Hobbs. Dec 1923 entry shows mother living in Phenix City. Listed in 1930 census. Inez left the Home 01 May 1932.
Allen, Unk.	1909	Jan 1919 entry shows only that a Mr. Allen wants to board his little girl at the Home.
Anderson, Frances	Unk.	10 Oct 1864 entry says, "child of a refugee named Frances Anderson receipted-and afterwards ran away".
Anderson, Irene	Unk.	Appears in the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving was noted as Mrs. Grant - city.
Andrews, Anne	Unk.	1862 noted as being in the Home.
Andrews, Sarah	Unk.	1862 noted as being in the Home.
Armstrong, Higden Florence	1865	Taken into the Home 25 Feb 1869.



Arrington, Ruth Annette	Unk.	Nov 1928 noted as being in the Home.
Averett, Lillian May	1902	1910 census listed as being in the Home. Father lived in Cusseta. Aug 1915 Lillie May's aunt requested she be released to her care. Request denied. Jul 1917 Lillie May given permission to visit her father in Cusseta.
Averett, Nettie	1898	1910 census listed as being in the Home. Father lived in Cusseta. Aug 1915 Home paid expenses for Nettie's funeral. Torbet's Funeral Home handled arrangements.
Baker, Irene	1906	1912 noted as being in the Home.
Baker, Irma	Unk.	1920 census listed as being in the Home and shows birthplace is Georgia. Oct 1925 Irma secured a position in Lee's Department Store and was living with Mrs. Louis Ryckley, 620 1st Ave. Nov 1925 Irma was living with a Mrs. Huguley in Phenix City.
Barr, Mary	Unk.	1862 noted as being in the Home. Was later given to her father.
Batchelor, Louise	1896	aka Louise Bachellor. Appears in the 1910 census as being in the Home. Sep 1915 Louise released to the care of her aunt, Mrs. Culberson of Troy, Alabama. Dec 1915 she returned to Columbus and worked at City Mills. Mar 1916 Louise taken from her mother and put in care of Miss Sallie (Matron). 01 Jul 1917 Louise left the Home the previous week and went to her mother. She was persuaded to return to the Home. Nov 1917 Louise had a position at the (Columbus) Telephone Exchange but lost it. Louise then went to the Telephone Exchange in Dawson. Jan 1918 Louise sent home from Dawson. Given a position at the Telephone Exchange in Macon. 1918 reported to have married Ben Lee Gosa, "a butcher boy on the train".
Bayard, Blondie	Unk.	Appears in the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Married a Davis who was a Minister in South Carolina. Feb 1915 she lost her husband and asks the Home to take her two small daughters. Approved.
Bayard, Daisy	Unk.	Appears in the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving was noted as "companion - city".
Bayard, Ruth	Unk.	Appears in the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving was noted as Mrs. Edwards - City.
Beasley, Unk.	Unk.	16 April 1917 entry shows a Beasley girl noted as being in the Home.
Belk, Unk.	Unk.	Dec 1922 noted as being in the Home. Aug 1923 Belk children returned to their parents.
Belk, Unk.	Unk.	Dec 1922 noted as being in the Home. Aug 1923 Belk children returned to their parents.
Belieu, Elizabeth	1848	1850 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace as Georgia and spells name Billyieu.
Belton, Elizabeth	Unk.	1855 noted as being in the Home. Later died of Scarlet Fever.



Bishop, Viola	Mar 1891	1900 census shows birthplace as Georgia. Is listed in the 1910 census as being in the Home. Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "stenographer, Atlanta".
Bivins, Mary	Unk.	Jan 1924 admitted to the Home. Feb 1925 Mary confirmed in the Episcopal Church. May 1927 Board sends Mary to the VASHTI Home in Thomasville, GA.
Blalock, Mattie	Oct 1894	1900 census shows birthplace as Georgia. Appears in the 1910 census. Visited by her mother in August 1912. Sep 1913 placed at Boyce's Store. Feb 1914 placed with Mrs. Speed for trial as a cook. 29 Apr 1914 employed by Mrs. (Doctor) Warner. Oct 1914 employed at the Hosiery Mill and boarding with Mrs. French. 01 Jun 1917 employed in the home of Mrs. Munroe.
Blalock, Minnie	Mar 1892	1900 census shows birthplace as Georgia. Listed in the 1910 census as being in the Home. Visited by her mother in August 1912. Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "housekeeper, Mrs. Chas. Philips on Rose Hill".
Bowden, Alice	1912	Admitted to the Home 21 Sep 1926. Father dead, mother unable to provide care. Had a sister, Louise, age 19 & a brother, Mac, age 21. Jun 1928 Board decides to send Alice to her brother Mac, in Atlanta. Alice came back to Columbus, secured a job with Tom Houston Peanut Company and was boarding with a Mrs. Porter. Aug 1928 Alice was living with a cousin, Mrs. Evans.
Bowden, Minnie	10 Dec 1918	Admitted to the Home 21 Sep 1926. Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Boyce, Alice	Unk.	Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Patrick, Texas".
Boyce, Mary	Unk.	Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Williams, city".
Brannon, Matilda	Unk.	1857 noted as being in the Home. 1858 adopted by a Mrs. Thompson.
Britt, Jane	Unk.	Entered the Home Aug 1862. 1863 entry shows she was with Mrs. R. Flournoy.
Britt, Letitia	Unk.	Entered the Home Aug 1862.
Broadway, Mary	1850	aka Fannie. 1855 noted as being in the Home. Entry names an uncle, a Mr. Howell. 1860 Census shows Mary's birthplace as Georgia. Feb 1865 Fannie taken home by her uncle.
Brooks, Belle	Unk.	Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Eugene Miller, Pensacola".
Brooks, Rosa	Dec 1882	1900 census gives birthplace as Alabama. Aug 1904 Rosa leaves the Home to live with her mother in Pensacola, FL.
Brown, Fannie	Unk.	1852 noted as being in the Home. Entry shows that she is from Montgomery, Alabama.
Brown, Fanny	Unk.	1858 noted as being in the Home. Later given to her sister, Mrs. Reese.



Brown, Rosa May	14 Sep 1923	Rosa was admitted into the Home 28 Feb 1927. Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Brown, Ruby	1910	Jan 1923 grandmother identified as a Mrs. Jones, living 2309 Olive St. with her son, daughter-in-law and their three children. Board voted to give Ruby to her grandmother.
Brown, Sydney Elizabeth	1903	22 Jan 1914 noted as being in the Home. Jul 1916 released back to her mother.
Brown, Unk.	Unk.	Apr 1927 entry says "Mrs. Brown, the mother of the little girls last taken in....."
Bugg, Cecilia	Unk.	Apr 1845 noted as being in the Home. Entry says ran away, did badly and was shot by a man.
Bugg, Ella	Unk.	1853 noted as being in the Home. 1854 entry shows only that she was "removed".
Bugg, Laura	Unk.	Apr 1845 noted as being in the Home. 1848 given to Mrs. Warren of New Haven, CT.
Bullard, Bessie Marie	02 Aug 1928	aka Betty. Entered the Home 06 Aug 1929. Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home. Adopted 01 Nov 1932 by Sgt. and Mrs. Corn of Fort Benning.
Bullard, Delle Vinie	02 Apr 1920	Admitted to the Home 21 Jul 1924. Aug 1924 entry shows father to be age 64 and unemployed. Is listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Bullard, Minnie Cile	12 Jun 1918	Admitted to the Home 21 Jul 1924. Aug 1924 entry shows father to be age 64 and unemployed. Is listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Calhoun, Vera	1905	Listed 1910 census as being in the Home. 1920 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Jan 1923 Vera to begin training at City Hospital. Aug 1923 Vera taken from training at Hospital. Dec 1923 Vera left the Home to go live with her sister in Birmingham.
Calhoun, Violet	1902	1910 census listed as being in the Home. Mar 1919 Violet sent to the Georgia Training School.
Carrigen, Annie	Unk.	06 Apr 1870 received into the Home.
Casper, Sarah	1837	1850 census shows she was in the Home and born in Georgia.
Champion, Elizabeth	Unk.	1846 noted as being in the Home.
Clark, May Etta	1868	1880 census listed as being in the Home.
Clay, Isabella	1840	1848 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace as Georgia. 1854 given to her relations.
Clay, Martha	Unk.	1848 noted as being in the Home. 1854 bound to Mrs. Dessau, a Milliner.



Coe, Myrtle Louise	1922	5 Oct 1924 admitted to the Home. Jun 1928 Board decides to send Louise to the Georgia Home Society for placement. Aug 1928 Alice placed in a home by Mrs. Hardcastle, State Welfare Worker.
Cole, Jane	1863	Dec 1874 entered the Home. 1880 census shows birthplace is Alabama.
Coles, Myrtle Louise	1922	Sep 1924 accepted into the Home. Mother & uncle unable to care for child and grandmother dead.
Collins, Ann	1837	1846 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace is Georgia. 1854 taken to relations in Mississippi.
Collins, Emma	1839	1846 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace is Georgia. 1854 taken to relations in Mississippi.
Cone, Dora	Unk.	Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Chas Everett, Cusseta" and also noted as "dead".
Cone, Lillie	Feb 1883	1900 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Appears on list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Herring, Atlanta". (Also see Kohn, Lillie).
Cooper, Sarah	Unk.	1848 noted as being in the Home. 1854 bound to Rev. Wm. Wynn.
Corrington, Amanda	1857	03 Jan 1861 brought to the Home by Jane Poole. 01 May 1865 entry shows Amanda returned to the asylum.
Crane, Catharine	Unk.	Entered the Home 18 May 1861. 1862 given to her mother and was later placed in a cigar factory.
Culpepper, Ocie	Unk.	aka Mamie. Jan 1919 noted as being in the Home. Feb 1919 Ocie sent to the Georgia Training School.
Cunningham, Elizabeth	Unk.	1862 noted as being in the Home. 1865 given to her mother.
Daniel, Emma	Unk.	1862 noted as being in the Home.
Daniel, Fanny	Unk.	1862 noted as being in the Home. 1865 given to a Mrs. Ravenscraft.
Davis, Blondine Hortense	1906	Feb 1915 noted as being in the Home. 1920 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Jul 1921 Hortense and her sister was given permission to visit unnamed relatives. Nov 1921 entry shows Hortense's mother still alive.
Davis, Martha	1865	1880 census shows birthplace is Alabama.
Davis, Martha Elsie	1912	Feb 1915 noted as being in the Home. 1920 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Jul 1921 Martha and her sister given permission to visit unnamed relatives. Nov 1921 entry shows Martha's mother still alive.
Davis, Mary Jane	1872	1880 census shows birthplace is Georgia.
Decker, Caroline	Unk.	Entered the Home 21 Jan 1861. Given by her mother.
Decker, Julie	Unk.	1862 noted as being in the Home. Later given to a Mrs. Jones.



DeLoit, Clara Louise	Unk.	May 1925 noted as being in the Home. May 1926 entry shows that Clara was adopted Jun 1925 by Mr. & Mrs. Joe McEachern of San Francisco.
Derden, Arabella	1872	Mar 1875 received into the Home.
Derden, Julie	1870	Mar 1875 received into the Home.
Drew, Ella	1867	aka Dolly. Feb 1870 noted as being in the Home. Child of a Mrs. Lynn, first name unknown. 1880 census shows birthplace is Maryland.
Dukes, Daisy	May 1886	1900 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Appears on list of girls who have left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Ramsey, Atlanta".
Dunn, Julia	1903	1910 census listed as being in the Home. Aug 1918 Julia to enter Industrial High School.
Dunn, Maud	1902	1910 census listed as being in the Home. Aug 1918 Maud to enter senior class at Industrial High School. Aug 1919 Maud sent to the Georgia Training School.
Ellis, Mary	1845	1850 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Later bound to Mr. Ellis from Kansas.
Fann, Mary A.	Unk.	1856 noted as being in the Home. 1858 adopted by a Mrs. Stewart.
Fant, Effie	1873	1880 census shows birthplace is Georgia.
Fincher, Cora	1904	Returned to her mother. Jan 1923 Board voted to take Cora, now 19, back into the Home. Cora's spent previous 4 years in Georgia Training School. Mother now dead. Feb 1923 Cora to enter training in New Orleans Hospital.
France, Velma Margaret	28 Jun 1916	aka Peggy. Admitted to the Home 12 Jan 1924. Nov 1925 Velma "united with the First Baptist Church." Oct 1927 entry identifies a grandfather as a Mr. Edge. On 09 Sep 1929 Velma, who had been on 6 months probation with Mr. & Mrs. Henry Barr, was returned to the Shepherd Home. Is listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
French, Ida	1893	Nov 1901 noted as being in the Home. Brought there by her mother, Mrs. Sallie French. 1910 census listed as being in the home. Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "housekeeper, Mrs. Crush, Atlanta". Jul 1914 Ida returned from Atlanta due to the death of her employer.
French, Louella	1897	Nov 1901 noted as being in the Home. Brought there by her mother, Mrs. Sallie French. 1910 as being in the Home. Dec 1914 Louella working at Kirvens. Jul 1915 Louella returned to her mother.
French, Mary Lou	1895	Nov 1901 noted as being in the Home. Brought there by her mother, Mrs. Sallie French. 1910 census listed as being in the Home. 3 May 1914 on advice of physician Mary Lou sent to the Sanitarium in Milledgeville. Dec 1914 Mary Lou is compensated for helping teach feeble-minded children there.
Fuller, Emma	Unk.	Appears on list of girls who have left the Home Between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving is private information).



Fuller, Lois	May 1883	1900 census shows birthplace as Georgia. Mar 1901 Lois' mother claims Lois will be 18 as of May 1901. Nov 1901 Lois to go to a Mrs. Brown to see if she has talent for sewing. Apr 1904 Lois was living with a Mrs. Walker, sister of the wife of a Dr. Jenkins. Appears on list of girls who have left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "dead".
Gassoway, Amanda	Unk.	1863 noted as being in the Home.
Gassoway, Matilda	Unk.	1863 noted as being in the Home.
Gatlier, Elizabeth	1869	Jul 1875 noted as being in the Home.
Gatlin, Bettie	Unk.	Jul 1875 noted as being in the Home. Later given permission to visit dying mother in hospital.
Greer, Pauline	16 Jun 1914	Oct 1923 entered the Home. Jul 1924 entry shows father living in Butler, GA. Apr 1927 entry indicates that Pauline had a brother in the local area. Is listed in 1930 census. 12 Oct 1932 Pauline leaves the Home to go into training at City Hospital.
Hale, Georgia	1872	Noted as being in the Home. 1880 census shows birthplace is Georgia.
Hall, Rebecca	1857	1870 census shows birthplace is Georgia.
Hall, Sarah	1860	1870 census shows birthplace is Georgia.
Harris, Lizzie	1857	1870 census shows birthplace is Georgia.
Hart, Lucille	16 Jul 1915	09 Oct 1916 admitted to the Home. 1920 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Feb 1923 Lucille's maternal aunt identified as a Mrs. Denson. Nov 1925 Lucille "united with the First Baptist Church." Feb. 1929 Lucille to enter Industrial High School. Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Hatten, Maria	1839	1846 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace is Georgia. 1854 adopted by Mrs. Marble, a teacher.
Hendley, Daisy	1906	1920 census listed as being in the Home with birthplace of Tennessee. Daisy's sister, and brother-in-law, C. C. Harris, lived 4 Miles out on Hamilton Road. Board voted to give Daisy to her sister, Mrs. Harris. Jul 1926 Daisy now married and living in Detroit.
Herrington, Annie Pearl	01 Dec 1923	3 Nov 1930 entered the Home.
Hickey, Fanny	Unk.	1856 noted as being in the Home. Later given to her mother.
Hickey, Mary J.	Unk.	1856 noted as being in the Home. Later given to her mother.
Hicks, Janie	Unk.	Mar 1900 noted as being in the Home. Jan 1904 has a position as steno and bookkeeper in a book store in Macon. Mar 1904 Janie living in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Shillings. Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Rogers, Macon".



Hightower, Nancy	Unk.	1863 noted as being in the Home.
Hill, Annie Louise	1905	1910 census listed as being in the Home.
Hill, Berta	1897	1910 census listed as being in the Home. Jul 1918 Berta working at Brown's Tea Room.
Hill, Fannie	1904	1910 census listed as being in the Home. Oct 1917 Fannie to attend high school. 1920 census shows birthplace is Alabama. Nov 1920 Fannie to live with her brother in the "country".
Hill, Laura	1905	Aug 1912 noted as being in the Home. 1920 census shows birthplace is Alabama. Nov 1920 Laura to live with her brother in the "country".
Hill, Nettie	1900	1910 census listed as being in the Home. 1920 census shows birthplace is Alabama. Sep 1921 Nettie to live with her brother in the country.
Hoopnaugh, Charlotte	04 Mar 1866	aka Lottie. Dec 1874 noted as being in the Home. 1880 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Appears on list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Roadnax, Cusseta".
Hoopnaugh, Pearlie	23 Feb 1868	Dec 1874 noted as being in the Home. 1880 Census shows birthplace is Georgia. Appears on list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Dewberry, Atlanta".
Howard, Lizzie	Unk.	23 Mar 1870 entered the Home. 04 May 1870 reported to be owner of a house and lot in Auburn.
Hyde, Georgia	1896	1910 census listed as being in the Home. Had relatives in Opelika. Feb 1915 started school. April 1920 entry says Georgia had an aunt, named Mrs. Fisher, and a step-aunt, named Mrs. Hyde. 1920 census shows birthplace is Alabama. Jan 1923 Georgia in the home of Miss Theresa Griffin every afternoon from 1 to 5. Apr 1923 Georgia placed in the home of Mrs. Billy Willis on 13th Ave. Jun 1923 Georgia placed in a temporary home with the Salvation Army. Georgia had a half-brother living in Baltimore. Jul 1923 Georgia sent to her half-brother in Baltimore.
Ingram, Annie	Unk.	1855 noted as being in the Home. Later died of Scarlet Fever.
Ingram, Annie Laurie	31 Jul 1921	02 Feb 1930 entered the Home. Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Ingram, Caroline	Unk.	1855 noted as being in the Home. Later adopted through Mrs. Boyken.
Ingram, Martha Ree	13 Sept 1923	02 Feb 1930 entered the Home.
Jackson, Caroline	1843	1848 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace is Georgia. 1852 given to Mrs. Durr.
Johnson, Henrietta	Unk.	1862 noted as being in the Home. Later given to her grandfather.



Johnson, Jane	Unk.	1862 noted as being in the Home. 1865 given to Mrs. Raines.
Johnson, Louisa	Unk.	1860 noted as being in the Home. 1861 entry shows mother died Dec 1861.
Johnson, Martha	Unk.	1862 noted as being in the Home. Later given to her grandfather.
Johnson, Mary	1842	1848 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace is Georgia. 1857 ran away from the Home.
Johnson, Susan	1837	1848 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace is Georgia. 1854 bound to Mrs. Day, a Milliner and Dress Maker.
Jones, Sallie	Unk.	1862 noted as being in the Home. 1863 with Mrs. Log.
Jurden, Ida	Unk.	1862 noted as being in the Home. 1865 given to her mother.
Kelly, Martha	Unk.	Jul 1861 entered the Home. Later bound to Mrs. Venable.
Kent, Alice	1904	Sep 1922 accepted into the Home. Papers signed by maternal grandmother and by an uncle. Feb 1923 Board agrees to let Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gilbert adopt Alice. The family will live near Birmingham.
Kent, Johnnie Mae	1915	Sep 1922 accepted into the Home. Papers signed by maternal grandmother and by an uncle. Johnny's father identified as a "Common Law Father". Jan 1923 Board votes to release Johnny Mae to Mr. and Mrs. John S. Wood of Cherokee County, Georgia.
Kent, Minnie	Unk.	Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Shilling, Macon."
Kohn, Lillie	Unk.	aka Lillie Cone. Feb 1901 noted as being in the Home and anxious to be prepared as a kindergarten teacher. Mar 1901 Lillie to be sent to Athens, GA to prepare her as a "regular" teacher.
Kyrkendall, Amanda J.	1846	1849 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace is Georgia. 1858 entry says "came back from bad treatment".
Kyrkendall, Lucinda E.	1847	1849 noted as being in the Home. Adopted by a Mrs. Woodfield. 1850 census shows birthplace is Georgia.
Lanier, Carolyn	01 Feb 1917	Admission date not shown. Aug 1922 entry shows an uncle, Frank Lanier, of Americus. Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home. 29 Jul 1930 Carolyn left the Home to attend Tallulah Falls Industrial School.
Lanier, Mildred	16 Jul 1914	Admission date not shown. Aug 1922 entry shows an uncle, Frank Lanier of Americus. Listed in the 1930 census. 23 Jul 1930 Mildred left the Home to attend Tallulah Falls Industrial School.
Lawson, Lena	28 Jun 1908	1920 census listed as being in the Home and shows birthplace is United States. Nov 1925 Lena "united with the First Baptist Church." Feb 1929 Lena to enter Industrial High School. Listed in the 1930 census. 01 Jul 1931 Lena left the Home to work for Mrs. Adams of Bibb City.
Lawson, Linda	1907	1912 noted as being in the Home.



Ledberry, Claude	Unk.	1900 census spells name Sedberry and shows birthplace is Georgia. Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Chalmore, Dozier, AL".
Lewis, Anna	Unk.	10 Oct 1864 noted as being in the Home. Later adopted by a Mrs. Turner.
Lewis, Anna	1852	1856 noted as being in the Home. 1860 census shows birthplace is Georgia.
Lewis, Fanny	Unk.	1855 noted as being in the Home. 1858 adopted by a Mrs. May.
Lewis, Minerva	Unk.	Apr 1845 noted as being in the Home. 1846 given to her mother.
Linehan, Marie	May 1883	1900 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Oct 1901 Marie to attend Massey Business College. Feb 1903 entry shows Marie had a sister in New Orleans. Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Girardeau, city".
Lominac, Frances	1843	1853 noted as being in the Home. 1860 census shows birthplace is South Carolina. 1862 given to Mrs. Hamilton.
Lominac, Margaret	1846	1853 noted as being in the Home. 1860 census shows birthplace is South Carolina. 1861 entry shows she was 15 years old, married and incapacitated for manual work due to loss of three fingers from right hand. 25 Feb 1862 Maggie to attend Mr. Lee's School. May 1862 bound to Mrs. Ronilac.
Londenbaugh, Cornelia	Unk.	Jun 1861 entered the Home.
Lynne, Mary E.	1858	06 Apr 1870 received into the Home. 1870 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Mar 1875 Mary working at the Eagle Factory.
Mackey, Ethel Mae	24 Aug 1916	13 Sep 1924 admitted to the Home. Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Mackey, Hazel	29 Nov 1919	13 Sep 1924 admitted to the Home. Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Mackey, Lois Louise	21 Jul 1921	13 Sep 1924 admitted to the Home. Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Mangham, Virginia	1843	1849 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace is Georgia. 1854 given to her uncle, Jas. Mangham of Louisiana.
Martin, Margaret	Unk.	Jul 1929 noted as being in the Home.
Maye, Lucy	Unk.	Jan 1875 noted as being in the Home.
McCluskey, Clara	1908	Dec 1918 noted as being in the Home. Entry says that the McCluskey children have been taken in and identifies them as Catholic. 1920 census shows birthplace is Alabama. Jul 1921 entry identifies one of the girls as Clara who has a cousin, a Mr. Hancock, in Mobile. Aug 1921 entry says McCluskey children sent to "ALTO". Oct 1921 entry suggests "ALTO" is a Tuberculosis Sanitarium.



McClusky, Lillian	1913	1920 census listed as being in the Home and shows birthplace is Georgia.
McCluskey, Nelle	1910	Dec 1918 noted as being in the Home. Entry says that the McCluskey children have been taken in and identifies them as Catholic. 1920 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Jul 1921 entry identifies one of the girls as Clara who has a cousin, Mr. Hancock, in Mobile. Aug 1921 entry says McCluskey children sent to "ALTO". Oct 1921 entry suggests "ALTO" is a Tuberculosis Sanitarium.
McDonald, Ellie	Unk.	1900 census shows birthplace is Alabama. Aug 1904 Ellie had a position as a Steno at the Show Case appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "stenographer. Atlanta".
McGinty, Georgia	1864	06 Apr 1870 received into the Home. 1870 census lists her as Mary with birthplace of Alabama. Also listed in 1880 census.
McGinty, Jennie	1862	06 Apr 1870 received into the Home. 1870 census shows birthplace is Alabama. Also listed in 1880 census.
McGraw, Annie	1903	1910 census listed as being in the Home. Father dead. Sister married a Johnson. Aug 1914 Annie was released to the care of her sister.
McKinzie, Paralie	1853	1857 noted as being in the Home. 1860 census shows birthplace is Georgia. 1865 given to Mrs. Tull.
Meredith, Ivy	1905	1912 noted as being in the Home. 11 Oct 1912 a Mrs. Meredith was given custody of Ivy.
Mobley, Katherine Elizabeth	29 Aug 1922	01 Nov 1928 entered the Home. Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Morris, Mary	Unk.	1855 noted as being in the Home. 1858 entry shows she was given to her mother.
Morris, Matilda	Unk.	1855 noted as being in the Home. 1858 entry shows she was given to her mother. Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912.
Newsome, Nettie	Unk.	Reason for leaving given as "burned in Home".
Nickols, Gracie Lucile	14 Aug 1905	07 Jan 1914 noted as being in the Home. Daughter of John Nickols. May 1916 diagnosed with "tubercular Trouble." 01 Aug 1916 Lucile Nickols is "pleasantly situated" at the County Farm. May 1919 Lucile was returned to her father.
Nickols, Naomi Gertrude	14 Apr 1910	07 Jan 1914 noted as being in the Home. Daughter of John Nickols. May 1919 Gertrude was returned to her father.
Nix, Hannah	09 Jul 1915	17 Apr 1923 admitted to the Home. Feb 1925 Hannah confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Page, Nellie	Unk.	Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Cannon, city".
Page, Willie Lee	Unk.	Oct 1901 noted as being in the Home. Brought there by her aunt, Mrs. Ledbetter.



Parham, Emily	1907	1920 census listed as being in the Home and shows birthplace is Georgia. The mother of Emily Parham, also an aunt of Mabel Parham, lived at 2200 North Street. 1930 census lists Emily as "Assistant Matron" of the Home.
Parham, Mabel	1906	1920 census listed as being in the Home. 1923 entry shows that one of Mabel's aunts also is the mother of Emily Parham and lived at 2200 North Street. Mabel's brother worked at Newark Shoe Co.
Parham, Nina	Unk.	Mar 1919 noted as being in the Home.
Payton, Reatta	1912	Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Payton, Ruth	05 May 1920	21 Aug 1924 admitted to the Home. 1927 entry identifies a grandfather as a Mr. Edge. On 09 Sep 1929 Ruth, who had been on 6 months probation with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Barr, was returned to the Home.
Perdie, Virginia	1855	1857 noted as being in the Home. To be called Ida Jurden. 1859 Home roster lists her as Ida Jurden, but the 1860 census lists her as Ida Pardue and shows birthplace is Georgia.
Plum, Elizabeth	1838	1848 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace is Georgia. 1856 bound to Mrs. Andrew P. Jones.
Powers, Alene	1867	1880 census shows birthplace is unknown.
Randolph, Henrietta	1853	13 Sep 1861 entered the Home.
Reeves, Ethel	6 Oct 1919	21 Jan 1924 admitted to the Home. Feb 1924 entry identifies mother as Susannah Reeves of 133 Eleventh Ave. Oct 1927 entry identifies a brother as Theodore Reeves. Listed in the 1930 census. 18 Jul 1932 Ethel left the Home with her sister, Mrs. Reneldt Hinison, Rt. #5 Champaigne Rd, Mt. Clemons, MI.
Reeves, Mildred Lucile	10 Jul 1913	aka Susie. 21 Jan 1924 admitted to the Home. Feb 1924 entry identifies mother as Susannah Reeves of 133 Eleventh Ave. Oct 1927 entry identifies a brother as Theodore Reeves. 1930 census lists her as Susie. Mildred left the Home 18 Jul 1932 with her sister, Mrs. Reneldt Hinison, Rt. #5 Champaigne Rd, Mt. Clemons, MI.
Reeves, Wilma	16 Sep 1916	Jan 1924 admitted to the Home. Feb 1924 entry identifies mother as Susannah Reeves of 133 Eleventh Ave. Oct 1927 entry identifies a brother as Theodore Reeves. Listed in the 1930 census as Wilmer. Wilma left the Home 18 Jul 1932 with her sister, Mrs. Reneldt Hinison, Rt. #5 Champaigne Rd, Mt. Clemons, MI.
Reid, Essie	1910	17 May 1918 admitted to the Home. Jun 1924 entry identifies a sister as Mrs. Ruby DuPree, living in Oklahoma. Mar 1927 entry identifies a sister as Mrs. Brash. Aug 1928 Essie to live with her sister, Mrs. Brash following graduation. Jul 12, 1928 Essie graduated from Industrial High School and left the Home to live with a sister in Russell, Kentucky.
Reid, Lavonia	1909	1920 census listed as being in the Home. Jun 1924 entry identifies a sister as Mrs. Ruby DuPree living in Oklahoma. Mar 1927 entry identifies a sister as Mrs. Brash. Apr 1927 Lavonia takes a position at McCrory's.
Ricks, Janie	Aug 1883	1900 census shows birthplace is Georgia.



Robinson, Julia J.	1848	aka Lula J. 1852 noted as being in the Home. 1860 census shows birthplace is Georgia.
Rogers, Martha	Unk.	Apr 1845 noted as being in the Home.
Ross, Mary Jane	Unk.	1849 noted as being in the Home. Later died of Dropsy.
Rowe, Ida Belle	May 1907	Dec 1915 noted as being in the Home. 1920 census shows birthplace is Alabama. Jan 1923 Mr. Luke, Deputy of Berrien County, is identified as uncle of the Rowe girls. Jan 1923 Mr. Luke of Nashville, GA. is identified as maternal uncle. Father still living at this time.
Rowe, Pearl	1911	1920 census listed as being in the Home and shows birthplace is Georgia. Jan 1923 Mr. Luke, Deputy of Berrien County, is identified as uncle of the Rowe girls. Jan 1923 Mr. Luke of Nashville, GA. is identified as maternal uncle. Father still living at this time.
Rush, Lillian	30 Sep 1919	21 Sep 1926 entered the Home. Oct 1927 entry identifies a grandfather as a Mr. Edge.
Rush, Lilly Belle	08 Aug 1921	21 Sep 1926 entered the Home. Oct 1927 entry identifies a grandfather as a Mr. Edge. Is listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Ryder, Margaret	1853	1859 noted as being in the Home. 1860 census shows birthplace is Georgia and spells name Rider. 1863 given to her mother.
Salena, Lizzie	Unk.	23 Feb 1870 noted as being in the Home.
Sands, Hazel Ruth	02 Mar 1927	03 Oct 1931 entered the Home.
Sands, Thelma Ann	08 Sep 1924	01 Oct 1931 entered the Home.
Saunders, Margaret	Unk.	1858 noted as being in the Home. aka Margaret Savage prior to 1858. 1860 census shows birthplace is Georgia and spells name as "Sanders".
Savage, Margaret	Unk.	1858 noted as being in the Home. To be called Margaret Saunders. 1861 entry lists her as "dead".
Searsey, Ellen	1859	3 Mar 1870 entered the Home. 1870 census shows birthplace is Alabama.
Service, Martha	1850	1860 noted as being in the Home. 1860 census shows birthplace is Georgia.
Sherd, Easter Ann	17 Jan 1927	02 Apr 1928 noted as being in the Home. Listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home. Adopted 13 Jul 1932 by J. D. Patterson, 1825 17th Ave.
Sims, Unk.	Unk.	Jun 1917 noted as being in the Home. Mr. Sims asked the Home to take his two children for whose care he was to pay \$16.00 per month in addition his providing clothing. Children returned to Mr. Sims at his request after a short period of time.



Sims, Unk.	Unk.	Jun 1917 noted as being in the Home. Mr. Sims asked the Home to take his two children for whose care he was to pay \$16.00 per month in addition his providing clothing. Children returned to Mr. Sims at his request after a short period of time.
Skinner, Audry	1898	Appears in the 1910 census as being in the Home. Dec 1915 Audrey reported as doing extremely well in high school. Jul 1918 Audrey working at Woolworth's. Nov 1918 Audrey goes to N.C. for duty with Nurses Reserve Corps. Dec 1918 Audrey returned from N.C.
Skinner, Desira	1903	aka Bessie. 1910 census listed as being in the Home. 1920 census listed as Dessie and birthplace is Ohio.
Skinner, Etta	Unk.	Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "married unknown, city".
Skinner, Exa	Jan 1885	aka Achsah Skinner. 1900 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Jun 1901 entry notes that Exa's mother is named Etta. Another entry noted that Exa had an aunt named Mrs. Wynne. Mar 1903 entry shows Exa sent to Mrs. Weakley in Americus. Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "married unknown, Savannah".
Skinner, Gladys	Unk.	Jul 1918 Gladys Skinner brought to the Home some years ago by an aunt as her father thought to be dead. He later turned up and wanted his child back. Request granted.
Skinner, May	1904	1910 census listed as being in the Home. 1920 census shows birthplace is Ohio. Nov 1920 May sent to her father.
Slaughter, Unk.	Unk.	Jan 1919 noted as being in the Home. Entry shows that her brother had come to town to work and live and that he took the child.
Smith, Unk.	Unk.	Feb 1918 baby taken into the Home. May 1918 Mrs. Smith, nee DuBose, takes her child from the Home.
Spiers, Rosalia	1846	1849 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace is Georgia and spells name Spyars. 1858 bound to Mrs. Jackson, a dressmaker.
Stacks, Hazel	1902	1910 census listed as being in the Home. Aug 1918 Hazel to enter senior class at the Industrial High School. Nov 1918 Hazel's mother dies. 1920 census shows birthplace is Virginia.
Stacks, Josie	1900	1910 census appears as being in the Home. Jul 1918 Josie working at Woolworth's. Nov 1918 Josie enters business course at Massey's School. Nov 1918 Josie's mother dies.
Suggs, Martha A.	Unk.	1857 noted as being in the Home. 1862 is given to her mother.
Sweat, Mabel	1916	Jul 1924 noted as being admitted to the Home. Parents dead and grandparents unable to care for her. Nov 1925 Mabel's grandmother identified as a Mrs. Davis. Dec 1925 Mabel returned to her grandmother, Mrs. Davis, of Girard, on 6 month probation. Dec 1926 Board relinquishes all legal claim to Mabel in favor of her grandmother.
Thomas, Caroline	Unk.	1853 noted as being in the Home.



Thomas, Catherine	Unk.	1854 noted as being in the Home. Later died from Dropsy.
Thomas, Ellen	Unk.	1863 noted as being in the Home. 1865 given to her aunt.
Thomas, Susan	1848	1852 noted as being in the Home. 1860 census shows birthplace is Georgia. May 1862 given to a Mrs. Davidson who resides near Butler, GA.
Thomas, Virginia	09 Apr 1924	15 Dec 1931 entered the Home.
Trammell, Mary Elizabeth	18 Aug 1924	01 Oct 1929 entered the Home. Had a married sister named Loula May McFarland. Is listed in the 1930 census as being in the Home.
Wade, Alice	1867	Jul 1875 is legally bound to the Home.
Walker, Emma	Unk.	1863 noted as being in the Home. 1865 given to her aunt.
Wallace, Ella May	1896	Jan 1903 noted as being in the Home. Had been in the Augusta Home for three years. Appears in the 1910 census. Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "to her mother, Columbus".
Wallace, Ruth	1894	Jan 1903 noted as being in the Home. Had been in the Augusta Home for three years. Appears in the 1910 census. Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "housekeeper, Mrs. McIlhenney, city".
Walls, Alice	1899	1900 census listed as being in the Home. Mr. Anthony, an uncle, lived in Phenix City. Jul 1920 entry shows that Alice had married. Oct 1920 entry identifies Alice as Alice Walls Brooks.
Walls, Carrie	1905	1910 census listed as being in the Home. Mr. Anthony, an uncle, lived in Phenix City. 1920 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Dec 1922 entry identifies a brother-in-law as a Mr. Brooks. May 1924 entry names a sister, Alice, in Shreveport and shows that Alice is married to Mr. A. A. Brooks and that Carrie is permitted to visit with her sister for an indefinite period. Aug 1925 Carrie decides to make her home with her sister, Mrs. Brooks, who is now in Birmingham.
Walstin, Alice	Unk.	March 1862 entered the home. In 1863 Alice was with a Mrs. James Rogers.
Ward, Willie Lou	1905	Dec 1915 noted as being in the Home. Feb 1919 Willie was given back to her father.
White, Anna	1861	1870 census shows birthplace is Alabama.
White, Lucy	1873	1880 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as Mrs. Taylor, city".
Wilding, Francis	1869	aka Fannie. Jul 1875 noted as being in the Home. Father killed and mother died of consumption. 1880 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "Mrs. Matthews, Cusseta".



Wilding, Mattie	1873	Jul 1875 noted as being in the Home. Father killed and mother died of consumption. 1880 census shows birthplace is Georgia. Appears on the list of girls who left the Home between 1892 and 1912. Reason for leaving given as "companion, Birmingham".
Wilson, Katie	1873	1880 census shows birthplace is Georgia.
Young, Alice	1867	1870 census shows birthplace is Georgia.
Young, Mollie	1865	1870 census shows birthplace is Georgia.
Youngblood, Margaret	1840	1848 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace is South Carolina. 1855 bound to Mrs. Jackson, a dressmaker.
Youngblood, Marilda	1838	1848 noted as being in the Home. 1850 census shows birthplace is South Carolina.

From the Internet site: [www.twincedar.org](http://www.twincedar.org)

**1845** - Our beginning was fueled by the foresight of "The Ladies Educational and Benevolent Society" of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Columbus. The mission of this dedicated group of women was to educate and provide sanctuary for the orphaned and needy children in the rapidly growing town along the banks of the Chattahoochee River.

**1924** - Columbus, Georgia - Colonel W. S. Shepherd bequeathed to the Ladies Society the original properties for the home in memory of his mother, Anne Elizabeth Shepherd. The three-story Victorian Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home (pictured) became a haven for children in need for the next 40 years.

**1963** - The Board of Directors for the Shepherd Home, responding to the need for a larger home, purchased 15 acres at 751 Double Churches Road, Columbus, GA — the home's present location.

### Random Comments

Number of children from 1840 to 1912 - 250.

Children in institute May 1912 - 29

Number of deaths from 1840 to 1912 - 8

Maximum age limit for girls to be kept in the Home - 20

Feb 1916 Home had 29 children in public school.

Oct 1865 the Asylum was rented to Dr. Whittlesey.

1866 the Asylum placed in the hands of Mrs. Abbott & Mrs. ? for a school.

**Notes:** Minutes of meetings from May 1870 to June 1874; Dec 1888 to Dec 1900; 1907 to 1912 missing. Minutes Book labeled "Minutes 1901 to 1906" begins on page 3 with Jan 1901 and runs through Oct 1901 on page 26. Page 27 shows minutes of Nov 1900. Pages 32 thru 36 contains minutes of Mar & Apr 1900. Pages 37-39 contains minutes of Apr 1906. Page 45 contains minutes for Sep 1902.

According to the 1884 City Directory the "Columbus Female Orphan Asylum" was located at West side Mercer, North of Franklin.



According to the 1888 City Directory the "Columbus Female Orphan Asylum" was located at 4<sup>th</sup> avenue near 15<sup>th</sup> (1445 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue).

According to the 1925 City Directory the "Columbus Female Orphan Asylum" was located at 1445 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

From here the Home moved to "Hill House". Hill House, located in East Highlands, at 1513 20<sup>th</sup> Street, was the former residence of Col. W.S. Shepherd (according to the the1927 City Directory the "Shepherd Ann Elizabeth Orphans" was located at 1513 20<sup>th</sup>).

Keys & insurance policies for Hill House handed over to Orphan's Home on 28 Feb 1925.  
Board ruled to move into Hill House on Fri, Apr 3rd 1925.

The Vashti Home, mentioned a couple of times in Shepherd Home Minute Books, is on the web at <http://www.vashti.org/>.





Fig. 1. Ann Elizabeth Shepherd  
Courtesy of Twincedar.org



Fig. 2. Hill House  
Courtesy of Twincedar.org



## **A Family and a Church: The Willises and Bethel Baptist Church of Midland, Georgia, 1829-1894**

By

Hugh I. Rodgers

At its site on Flat Rock Road in Midland, northeast of the city of Columbus, Georgia, Bethel Baptist Church is the archetypical southern country church. Its serene and dignified white clapboard appearance, complemented by a square-column portico, invites passersby to stop under one of the shade trees in the churchyard. The church building, erected in 1853, is an integral part of Muscogee County's architectural heritage. Its classical Greek Revival style is marred only slightly by the twentieth century addition of a steeple. Although records date from 1829, some maintain that the church began its existence in 1825 at the site of the old Dismuke farm on Warm Springs Road. By either date, Bethel Church is one of the oldest churches in Muscogee County. It also has the distinction of being closely tied with the family of its long-time pastor, Cary Curry Willis.<sup>1</sup> The man and the church form a significant element in Muscogee County's history.

In the mid to late eighteenth century, the Baptist movement swept through the Virginia and Carolina backcountry, converting many of the unchurched and former Anglicans, including members of the Willis family of Craven County, North Carolina. Baptists sought to revive in the wilderness of North America the church organization of the New Testament. This church would be free of what they viewed as the erroneous accretions of the intervening centuries and free of state or established religious control.<sup>2</sup> This revival eventually found its way into the fertile Neuse River basin of Craven County, home to the large Willis clan, including the sons of Richard Willis and his wife Marthy.<sup>3</sup> In 1756, twelve miles from New Bern, brothers James and Joseph Willis helped found the Swifts Creek Baptist congregation. Due to the lack of readily available trained ministers, such frontier congregations made wide use of lay preachers. Both James Willis and brother Joseph became ordained Baptist ministers, beginning a family tradition that would last through the next century. In 1774, Reverend James Willis represented Swifts Creek Baptist Church when it joined the Kihukee Association of Virginia and North Carolina Baptist churches.<sup>4</sup>

James Willis (b.10 Feb 1717, d. 9 Dec 1798) was married to Susannah Delamar (b. 6 Dec 1720, d. 1 Oct 1793), a descendant of French Huguenot Francis de la Mare. James was active in Craven County public life, as well as being a farmer and shrewd land dealer. This part time preacher's

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<sup>1</sup> Laura Lowe, "Bethel Baptist: A Spirit That Will Not Die," *Columbus and the Valley Magazine*, I (Spring 1992), 6-7; Harry Franklin, "Bethel Baptist Looks beyond 180<sup>th</sup>," *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, 27 June 2005; "Bethel Baptist Church: A Compiled History 1825-2005." A typescript of "Bethel Baptist Church: A Compiled History," available in the pastor's office, provides a useful overview.

<sup>2</sup> Robert A. Baker, "Southern Baptist Beginnings," Baptist History and Heritage Society, at [www.baptisthistory.org](http://www.baptisthistory.org).

<sup>3</sup> "James Willis Bible", *Quarterly Review of the Eastern North Carolina Genealogical Society* 4 (Summer, 1977), 139-140; Douglas Willis, *Two Centuries with a Willis Family and Their Kin* (Dallas: Progressive Business Services, 1963); Barbara M. Howard Thorne, ed., *The Heritage of Craven County, North Carolina* (New Bern: Eastern North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1984), articles 555 and 558.

<sup>4</sup> Morgan Edwards, *Materials Towards a History of the Baptists*, Vol. 2 (Danielsville, GA: Heritage papers, 1984), p. 89-90; George Washington Paschal, *History of North Carolina Baptists*, Vol. 2 (Raleigh: General Board North Carolina Baptist State Convention, 1930), p. 210-211, and 421; Frederick Lewis Weis, *The Colonial Churches and the Colonial Clergy of the Middle and Southern Colonies 1607-1776* (Lancaster, Mass., 1938), p. 95.



will, written four days before his death, provided evidence of considerable property in land and slaves.<sup>5</sup> After particular bequests, he provided that "the rest of my estate be equally divided amongst my sons: James Willis, if he is in this state, and Joshua Willis, Joel Willis, Joseph Willis and Isaac Willis." The will was proved in the December 1798 Court of Craven County, indicating some haste in settling the estate.

The younger James Willis (b. 4 Aug 1744, NC, d. bef. 4 Jan 1808) married Mary (last name unknown) and, like his father, became a prosperous farmer and family man. He served the cause of American independence in the Craven County Militia in 1781 and 1782.<sup>6</sup> Around 1800, James Willis, his children, and his brother, Joel Willis, moved from North Carolina to Georgia. According to the deed and tax records of Warren County, Georgia, James and his family settled along the tributaries of the Ogeechee River in southern Warren County.<sup>7</sup> James Willis and his sons took part in the 1805 land lottery but drew blanks; they were luckier in the 1807 lottery. Brother Joel Willis, himself a Revolutionary War veteran, drew land lots in Jones County, Georgia, where he became a well-known Baptist preacher.<sup>8</sup> James Willis, now noted as "Sr." in various county records, died intestate in late 1807.

A legal notice dated January 4, 1808, appeared in the *Augusta Chronicle* of January 23, 1808, announcing the appointment of James Willis (Jr.) and Norwell Robertson as administrators of the estate of the late James Willis, Sr. The "securities" in the amount of \$1,600 on the estate were James Willis, Norwell Robertson and George Granberry. It took several years to complete the division of the estate among James Willis, Sr.'s legatees: James Willis, Jr., Zachariah Willis, Joshua Willis, Jacob Willis, Dempsey Willis, Reddin Willis, Mary (Willis) Tignor, and Hugh Henry.<sup>9</sup> Before 1820, the heirs of James Willis, Sr., of Warren County began to scatter across the region. Dempsey, Joshua, Reddin, and Zachariah moved to other Georgia counties; James Willis, Jr., relocated to Alabama; and Jacob Willis, along with the Reverend Norwell Robertson and members of the Granberry family, found their way to Mississippi.<sup>10</sup> Some of the Warren County Willis family would make a connection to the original Muscogee County and the counties formed from it.

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<sup>5</sup> Will of James Willis, 5 December 1798, Craven County Willis (unbound), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>6</sup> Craven County, NC, Deed Book 34, p. 94-95; State of North Carolina, Division of Archives and History, *Revolutionary Army Accounts*, vol. VII, p. 27, Folio 1; *Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1977), p. 164.

<sup>7</sup> Warren County Tax Digests, Reel 51, Drawer 61, Georgia Department of Archives and History. Indispensable indexes to the deed and tax records of Warren County are provided by Daniel Nathan Crumpton in his three volumes: *Cemeteries and Genealogy: Warren County, Georgia, and Immediate Vicinity, 1792-1987* (Warrenton, GA, 1987); *Warren County, Georgia, 1793-1900: Genealogy II* (Warrenton, GA, 1993); *Warren County, Georgia, Land Records, I* (Warrenton, GA, 2002). Still useful is Ruth Blair, *Some Early Tax Digests of Georgia* (Atlanta: Georgia Department of Archives and history, 1926), pp. 204-207, 226, and 228.

<sup>8</sup> Paul K. Graham, *1805 Georgia Land Lottery: Fortunate Drawers and Grantees* (Decatur, GA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2004); Graham, *1805 Georgia Land Lottery: Persons Entitled to Draw* (Decatur, GA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2005); *1807 Land Lottery of Georgia* (Vidalia, GA: Georgia Genealogical Reprints, 1968). See Douglas Willis, *Two Centuries*, for details on Joel Willis and his descendants in Georgia and Alabama.

<sup>9</sup> Warren County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary, Miscellaneous Records 1794-1818, GDAH, 118/41; Inventories and Sales, 1794-1808, GDAH, 37/51; Returns on Estates, Books A, B, C, 1798-1826, GDAH, 37/51.

<sup>10</sup> Reverend Norwell Robertson, a neighbor and one of the administrators on the James Willis estate, was also a Baptist minister. In Covington County, Mississippi, Norwell Robertson organized the Leaf River Baptist Church and held county offices. He was viewed as "the most learned and influential man in this part of Mississippi" before his death in 1855. Jean Strickland and Patricia N. Edwards, *Church Records of Covington County, Mississippi*, p. 127-128 (photocopy furnished this writer by a descendant).



Around 1802, Dempsey Willis (b. 11 Mar 1782, in Craven County, NC) married Margaret Curry, the daughter of a Warren County Willis neighbor, Cary Curry. Dempsey Willis appeared on the Baldwin County Tax Digest of 1810. The Currys also moved to Baldwin County, Georgia, where Cary Curry's 1819 will mentioned his daughter, Margaret Willis, and his grandson and namesake, Cary Curry Willis.<sup>11</sup> Dempsey Willis and his family shifted into Jones County, but before 1840 went west to Talbot County (formed from the original Muscogee County in 1827). He and Margaret had a large family (the census of 1830 indicates five boys and five girls, although by that time several children had already left the nest). Dempsey and his wife lived alone at the time of the 1850 Census for Talbot County. He established a large farm in districts twenty-three and twenty-four of Talbot County; in 1840 he owned twenty slaves.<sup>12</sup> The family remained faithful to the Baptist denomination and reared their children in the faith. While "not wealthy, yet possessing enough of this world's goods to live in ease and comfort," Dempsey and Margaret provided their offspring with a basic education and an appreciation for energetic farm work.<sup>13</sup> Dempsey had evidently made distribution of much of his property before his death in 1851. Among his known children were James M. Willis, Mary Willis, Cary Curry Willis, Dempsey Andrew Jackson Willis, Benjamin Franklin Willis, and William H. Willis.

Cary Curry Willis was born on March 24, 1809, during the family's sojourn in Baldwin County. (His birth date is given as February 24 in one record; the March date appears on his tombstone.) Shortly after the creation of the original Muscogee County, young Cary Curry Willis and his brother, Dempsey Andrew Jackson Willis, also moved. Dempsey A. J. Willis settled in present-day Taylor County, while Cary C. Willis went on to land districts that lay along the subsequent Muscogee-Harris County line. George Granberry (b. 1797, d. 1856), the namesake of a Warren County neighbor of the Willises, also moved to Harris County at this time, where he became a noted Baptist preacher, preceding Cary C. Willis as pastor at Bethel Baptist Church. Cary Willis may have lived for a time in the household of George Granberry.<sup>14</sup>

As their numbers increased in Georgia, Baptist settlers found it desirable to form new churches. By the nineteenth century, Baptist laymen were familiar with the procedures of establishing a church. On June 29, 1829, a small group of Muscogee and Harris County pioneers, finding themselves at a distance from an existing church, constituted a "Baptist Church of Jesus Christ called Bethel." According to the constitution of the Bethel Baptist Church, thirteen individuals, "having been regularly baptised on a profession of our faith and having received letters of dismission from our respective churches, and believing it to be the duty of all regenerated men and women to form themselves into a religious body or church," unanimously agreed to be formed into a "Church of Jesus Christ." Six men and seven women, including Temperance, "a woman of color, the property of

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<sup>11</sup> Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr., *Some Georgia County Records* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1990), p. 20; Baldwin County, Court of Ordinary, Wills, Vol. A (1806-1832), p. 171.

<sup>12</sup> Federal Census, Jones County, 1830, Talbot County, 1840, Talbot County, 1850, and Talbot County Slave Schedule 1850. Maps of the land districts may be found in William H. Davidson, *A Rockaway in Talbot County*, Vol. 2 (Privately printed, 1985), p. 385-386.

<sup>13</sup> Quotation from a biographical sketch of Cary C. Willis in *History of the Baptist Denomination in Georgia Compiled for the Christian Index* (Atlanta: Jas. P. Harrison & Co., 1881), p. 590.

<sup>14</sup> Federal Census, Harris County, 1830; Louise C. Barfield, *History of Harris County, Georgia* (Columbus, GA: Columbus Office Supply Co., 1961), p. 368.



Jesse Johns," were the founding members.<sup>15</sup> A doctrinal statement in twelve articles became a part of the church's constitution.

Baptist churches were and are autonomous units, governed by the congregation. According to adopted "rules of decorum," members meet in conference at stated intervals to conduct business, receive new members, select pastors and deacons, and provide for the general good order of the church. Having organized themselves, the church at Bethel immediately "set in conference" on June 29, 1829, and opened a book for the reception of members. "Then came forward Cary C. Willis and was received on an experience of grace." Thus, Willis became the first person to join the newly formed church. He would remain a member for the next sixty-five years. Nearly three weeks later, on July 11, 1829, the church conference called Reverend Anderson Smith as its first pastor.<sup>16</sup>

As the life of the newly formed Bethel Church began to take shape, so too did the life of Cary Curry Willis. On October 8, 1829, he married Martha Ann Stallings, a daughter of Sanders and Lucy Stallings, in Harris County.<sup>17</sup> This marriage produced eight children in fairly close succession. The eldest, William B. Willis, was born in 1830, a year after the wedding. The responsibility of a growing family did not diminish Cary C. Willis's attention to his religious development. In recognition of "his pious conversation and godly walk," Bethel Church elected Cary Willis to the office of deacon in March 1831. From that point on, his spiritual commitment and study led him to the active ministry. On Christmas Eve, 1836, Bethel Church authorized his ordination by a presbytery made up of the Reverends George Granberry, G. B. Waldrup, and Anderson Smith, all of whom had been pastors at Bethel Church.<sup>18</sup> Almost at once, Reverend Willis received a call to serve Liberty Church in Muscogee County as pastor. In 1840 he began a ten-year connection to Harmony Church near Cusseta. Since most congregations only met once or twice a month, one minister could hold several pulpits. Reverend Willis preached as needed at several churches in Harris and Muscogee counties. He held long term pastorates at Bethesda Church and Rehoboth Church in Harris County, at Mt. Zion Church and Harmony Church in Muscogee County, and at Beulah Church in Stewart County.<sup>19</sup>

At a church conference at Bethel on December 26, 1840, Reverend George Granberry informed the group of his resignation as pastor. The members discussed the choice of a new minister, "whereupon Cary C. Willis was unanimously chosen (or nearly so)." The conference then appointed members Nathaniel G. Christmas and Hugh Watt to "apprise him" of the call. On January 23, 1841, Willis accepted. Moving with some deliberation, it was not until November 27, 1841, that a Bethel Church conference ratified "unanimously" the choice of "Bro. Cary C. Willis" as pastor.<sup>20</sup> He held the post until his death in 1894, becoming the longest serving and most beloved pastor in Bethel's history.

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<sup>15</sup> Bethel Baptist Church Minute Book 1829-1872. (Bound manuscript, Church office, Flat Rock Road, Columbus, GA). A photocopy is in the Genealogy Collection, Columbus Public Library, and a microfilm copy at the Georgia Department of Archives and History, Morrow, Georgia.

<sup>16</sup> Bethel Church Minute Book.

<sup>17</sup> Harris County, Georgia, Marriage Book 1(1828-1860), p. 2. Different marriage dates appear in other accounts. Martha Willis's obituary in the *Christian Index* of 16 Jan 1846 names her parents. Saunders Stallings is listed on the Federal Census for Muscogee County, 1830; at the time of the 1840 Census, Lucy Stallings, age between forty and fifty, lived near Cary C. Willis.

<sup>18</sup> Bethel Church Minute Book; *History of the Baptist Denomination in Georgia*, p. 590.

<sup>19</sup> Minutes of the Columbus Baptist Association, 1830-1894. Minutes printed annually from 1830. Microcopy located at Columbus Public Library, MF #766.

<sup>20</sup> Bethel Church Minute Book.



What sort of clergyman was Reverend Cary C. Willis? In the nineteenth century, successful Baptist and Methodist preachers had to develop a revivalist style of "fire and brimstone" sermons that reinforced the faithful and converted the unchurched to an emotional "experience of grace." Willis's abilities as an "exhorter" were recounted in 1849 by his friend, Reverend George Granberry:

One of the sessions [of the Columbus Association] was held on the old Muscogee (Methodist) Camp Ground; among the visiting ministers present was Rev. James Davis, of the Western Association, who during an exhortation, became thoroughly aroused; and with a vehemence and natural eloquence that could not be withstood or surpassed, he carried everything by storm. Said Mr. Granberry afterwards: "I've seen two things today that I never expected to see in this life: I've seen James Davis lay Cary Willis in the shade as an exhorter, and I've seen the Baptists beat the Methodists on their own ground."<sup>21</sup>

But fiery oratory was not Cary Willis's only or even best talent. All extant sources speak of his kind and supportive ministry to members of his congregations. As the decades of his gentle ministerial counseling passed, members came to regard him as "Father Willis." He provided wise and mediating guidance as moderator of Bethel Church conferences and for many years as moderator of the Columbus Baptist Association (formed of Baptist churches in Muscogee and surrounding counties in 1829). Church conferences dealt with the routine, such as appointing someone to keep the meetinghouse in good order (Cary Willis himself did that job for twelve dollar a year for a time), as well disciplining members for failure to attend services or for immoral behavior. As the minute books attest, members could be brought before the church for lying, stealing, fiddling and dancing, selling goods on the Sabbath, "lewd and obscene behavior on the streets of Columbus", and other actions showing "want of that Christian character that he ought to profess." The sins of fornication and adultery came under particular censure: one female who "married a second husband without knowledge of the death of the first" was subject to the penalty of excommunication. Counseling that resulted in repentance might allow the person to be "restored to fellowship." Interestingly, while intoxication with "ardent spirits" was condemned, it was only in the post-Civil War era that abstinence became the standard policy. Slaves who were members fell under the same disciplinary code as white members.<sup>22</sup>

Shortly after he became a member of Bethel Church, Cary Willis joined a committee that sought to obtain a deed for the land on which the church sat. On April 23, 1831, Willis and other committee members reported that Colonel E. B. W. Spivey "purposes to give the church" the property. Nevertheless, by 1850, a church conference appointed a committee to look into the "propriety of building a new house of worship...and to select the place of building." At first the committee suggested that only repairs to the existing building were needed, but in April 1852 the conference decided to erect a new structure. In May 1852, the church acquired two additional parcels of land in lot sixty-three of district nine. For one dollar, James Shivers sold to Cary Willis, Asa Lynch, Thomas Brunson and Daniel Huff, as Trustees of the church, a property "to be used exclusively for a Missionary Baptist Church." That same month, Tillman West sold to the same Trustees for five dollars a strip of land in the same lot, which provided the church access to a spring.<sup>23</sup> The building was completed in 1853 and still stands, as previously noted, on Flat Rock Road.

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<sup>21</sup> *History of the Baptist Denomination in Georgia*, p. 591.

<sup>22</sup> Bethel Church Minute Books, 1829-1872 and 1872-1935; "Bethel Baptist Church: Compiled History," p. 3-4; Columbus Baptist Association, Minutes, 1869, 1870, and 1871.

<sup>23</sup> Bethel Church Minute Book, 1829-1872; "Bethel Baptist Church: Compiled History," p. 4-5; Muscogee County, Superior Court, Deed Book F, p. 489 and 491.



When Cary Willis was member and pastor, the church building had two front doors: men entered by one, while women came in through the other. They even sat on opposite sides of the hall. The preacher occupied the pulpit just inside the two front doors. Member slaves sat in a gallery or balcony toward the back of the church. The exterior of the church today looks much as it did 155 years ago, even though the interior has undergone several renovations. The most recent renovation took place in the 1960s.

While ministering at Bethel Church (and several others) and looking after the spiritual needs of its members, Cary C. Willis also presided over a growing family. After bearing eight children, Martha Ann Willis died on December 23, 1845 (an event recorded in the Church Minute Book on December 27). Her obituary in the *Christian Index* noted that her youngest child was "only seventeen days old."<sup>24</sup> (The name and fate of this eighth child is a matter of some conjecture and will be addressed in the Willis genealogy, which follows this article.) Reverend Willis soon found another helpmeet in the person of Mary F. Huff, a young widow in his congregation, who had joined Bethel Church in April 1842. On June 16, 1846, Reverend George Granberry officiated at the marriage of Willis and Ms. Huff.<sup>25</sup> This union produced nine additional children. Of his seventeen children, Reverend Willis brought thirteen into church membership.

Such a large family required financial support. In the nineteenth century, smaller Baptist congregations did not expect that their preacher would live solely—or, perhaps, even at all—from the contributions of the faithful. Even as late as the 1880s, Bethel Church could only provide a salary of \$160 per annum; just before his death, the church managed to pay him \$250. By way of comparison, the minister at the much larger First Baptist Church in Columbus received \$2,000 during the same period.<sup>26</sup> (In terms of current money value, Willis's salary in his late years ranged from \$3,600 to \$5,700, while the downtown church pastor was in the \$40,000 range.) Cary C. Willis therefore prudently invested in land and slaves and became a self-supporting and prosperous farmer. His fields were quite productive; the *Columbus Enquirer* described his Irish potatoes as "hard to best."<sup>27</sup>

Most of Willis's property was located in the ninth land district of Muscogee County near the Harris County line. In January 1837, he bought the south half of land lot sixty-eight (101 1/4 acres) from William Ayres for \$600.<sup>28</sup> He netted a profit of \$400 when he sold this lot in 1840. Willis then bought from Eli B. W. Spivey the west half of lot ninety-seven in the ninth district, containing 101 1/4 acres, for \$1250. In 1851, Willis purchased land lot 128 (202 1/2 acres) from Asa Lynch for \$1500. The following year, he acquired the east half of land lot 197 in district eighteen and the east half of lot ninety-seven in the ninth district (a total of 202 1/2 acres) from the estate of William Russell for \$1410. Willis continued to build his land holdings in 1858 when he bought 100 acres in lot 127 in the ninth

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<sup>24</sup> *Christian Index*, 16 January 1846. A copy is held by Willis descendant Lorene Christin, Williamsburg, VA. It is abstracted in *Obituaries Published by the Christian Index, 1822-1879* (Macon: Georgia Baptist Historical Society, 1975), p. 257.

<sup>25</sup> Muscogee County, Marriage Book C, p. 67.

<sup>26</sup> Bethel Baptist Church Minute Book 1872-1935; Columbus Baptist Association, Minutes, 1890 and 1892.

<sup>27</sup> *Columbus Enquirer*, 4 August 1857. It is abstracted in Elizabeth Evans Kilbourne, *Columbus, Georgia, Newspaper Clippings*, Vol. 9 (Savannah, 2008).

<sup>28</sup> Muscogee County, Superior Court, Deed Book B, p. 331. Willis was listed on the Muscogee Tax Digest of 1838 for 101 1/4 acres.



district from Elias Champion for \$1350. That same year the estate of James Champion sold him fifty acres in land lot 137 of the ninth district for \$675.<sup>29</sup>

Thus, over a period of twenty-odd years, Reverend C. C. Willis had put together a farm of about 650 acres in size. The total amount he spent, \$6,185, appears small in view of modern real estate prices. Yet, according to one inflation calculator, the land would have been valued at \$125,000 in 2007.<sup>30</sup> For the 1860 census, he put a value of \$7,000 on his real estate (about \$159,750 in current dollars). More significantly, Willis owned twenty-seven slaves by 1860 with a census valuation (included in "personal property") of \$19,000 (about \$433,600 in 2007 currency). In this regard, Willis occupied a medial position among his neighbors, whose personal property valuations ranged from a high of \$66,400, to a low of \$425 (\$1.5 million to \$10,000 in 2007 terms). His friend and fellow Bethel member, Asa Lynch, held real estate valued in 1860 at \$10,140 (about \$232,000 in 2007) and personal property valued at \$36,800 (\$840,000 in modern terms).

The aftermath of the Civil War brought a sharp drop in real and personal property values. By 1870 the value of farms in Georgia had declined 51.8% from their pre-war 1860 level. Even so, at the time of the 1870 census, the value of Willis's real estate was still a comfortable \$4,000 (about \$61,000 in 2007). Other farms in the neighborhood had similar values in the range of \$2,000 to \$4,000. Willis's personal property valuation had, of course, taken a bigger hit, dropping down to \$1,500, about eight percent of its pre-war figure.<sup>31</sup> Although much reduced from pre-war levels, the Willis family remained in sound financial condition compared to many other Muscogee County residents. In 1870, the average annual wage for a Georgia factory worker was \$271; the cash income of rural laborers was much lower.

A solid material base allowed Reverend Willis to take an increasingly larger role in regional church affairs. Almost from the beginning of the Columbus Baptist Association, Cary C. Willis represented Bethel Church at the organization's annual meetings. In 1836, the Association's representatives met at Bethel Church, at a time when Bethel had 205 members. In the 1840s the church's main concerns revolved around missions, Sunday Schools (usually called Sabbath Schools), and publications. C. C. Willis strongly advocated Sunday Schools and African missions. He also headed the publications committee. In that connection, the Association resolved that "the South should produce and sustain a religious literature of her own. ...[W]orks issuing from Europe and the North contain sentiments that are objectionable to the feelings and dangerous to the peace of the Southern churches."<sup>32</sup> Southern resistance to the anti-slavery stance of northern churches had already resulted in the formation of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845 in Augusta, Georgia.<sup>33</sup> The slavery issue also led the Columbus Association to withdraw its support from the American Tract Society in 1857. As noted above, Reverend Willis himself owned slaves. Southern Baptists found

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<sup>29</sup> Muscogee County, Deed Book B, p. 334, 256; Deed Book F, p. 490, 492; Deed Book I, p. 560-561; Deed Book K, p. 416-417.

<sup>30</sup> S. Morgan Freeman, Inflation Calculator, [www.westegg.com/inflation](http://www.westegg.com/inflation).

<sup>31</sup> Federal Censuses, Population Schedules, Muscogee County, 1850, 1860, and 1870, and Slave Schedules 1850 and 1860; Donald B. Dodd and Wynelle S. Dodd, *Historical Statistics of the South 1790-1970* (University, AL: University of Alabama Press, 1973), p. 18-21.

<sup>32</sup> Columbus Baptist Association, Minutes, 1846.

<sup>33</sup> Robert G. Gardner, et al, *A History of the Georgia Baptist Association 1784-1984* (Atlanta: Georgia Baptist Historical Society, 1996).



scriptural justification for the institution. Most of these texts also stressed the obligations of masters to servants—obligations that some took quite seriously.<sup>34</sup>

Despite the slavery issue, missionary work, both domestic and foreign, remained a central focus for the Baptists. In 1849 the Columbus Association solicited funds from its churches to support a missionary in central Africa. Among the contributions was a \$3.62 donation from Bethel's black members. Reverend Willis took the chairmanship of the Association's standing committee on missions and preached the annual missionary sermon. The Association did not neglect local missionary work among the unchurched and among the slaves who continued to be received as church members.<sup>35</sup>

Beginning in the late 1850s, Cary C. Willis represented the Columbus Association at the Georgia Baptist Conventions. The Association elected him as Moderator (presiding officer) of its annual meetings in 1860. He held this important position for over twenty years. The Association did not meet for four years following the outbreak of the Civil War. When annual sessions resumed in 1866, Reverend Willis continued as moderator until the early 1880s. On December 23, 1860, in a renewed vote of confidence, the Bethel Church affirmed that C. C. Willis should "serve the Brethern (sic) as long as he may be disposed...to continue as their Pastor".<sup>36</sup>

For the duration of the Civil War, however, the Willis family and Bethel Church coped with numerous problems brought on by the conflict. On May 25, 1861, the Bethel Church conference resolved: "Owing to the circumstances by which we as a nation are surrounded, ordered ... the first and second days of June be set apart as days of fasting and praying." Twice in 1862, the church conference honored the request of President Jefferson Davis to set aside "days of fasting, humiliation and prayer" for the Confederacy. The war brought personal costs to the Willis family. In September 1863, Reverend Willis's son, Thomas J. Willis, was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga. In the same engagement, a nephew, John Willis, a member of Bethel since 1861, also met his death. The church adopted memorial resolutions, praising the Christian lives and brave deaths of the two Willis youths. Bethel Church may have served as a hospital during a part of the war.<sup>37</sup>

The end of the Civil War brought new problems for Bethel Church and the Columbus Baptist Association. The 1866 meeting lamented how "our institutions—political, social and religious—[are] passing through a fiery ordeal," noting that "our people [are] reduced to poverty by the late war." In such circumstances, the support of foreign missionaries became all but impossible. Fund-raising efforts continued, but with ever-diminishing returns.<sup>38</sup>

Somewhat more pressing was the desire of former slaves to form separate congregations. However, this did not happen immediately at Bethel. The church still received new African-American members in the spring and summer of 1866, although it appears that black members had begun meeting separately from white members. On May 23, 1867, the Bethel Church conference agreed that the pastor should administer communion to the "colored members at their regular meetings." A physical separation had commenced, although blacks technically remained members of Bethel. At the

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<sup>34</sup> These irony-laden issues are explored in detail by Stephen Barber, "Blacks and Whites Together: The Experiences of Some Baptist Churches in Muscogee County, Georgia 1825-1872," *Muscogiana*, 11 (Summer 2000), 1-18.

<sup>35</sup> Columbus Baptist Association, Minutes, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1849, 1856, and 1857; Barber, "Blacks and Whites Together," p. 7-8.

<sup>36</sup> Columbus Baptist Association, Minutes 1860; Bethel Church Minute Book 1829-1872.

<sup>37</sup> Bethel Church Minute Book 1829-1872; "Bethel Baptist Church: History", p. 5.

<sup>38</sup> Columbus Baptist Association, Minutes, 1866.



end of 1867, Bethel reported 102 white members and seventy-four "colored members"; at the end of 1868, Bethel recorded 116 white members and eighty-three black members. The desire of African-Americans to form their own church organization grew stronger, and at some point before 1872 Reverend Willis provided land for ex-slaves to build a church upon. On May 25, 1872, blacks organized the Locust Hill Missionary Baptist Church, and on October 28, 1872, the Bethel Church conference granted letters of dismissal "to all Col Brothers and Sisters of good standing who desire it."<sup>39</sup> Locust Hill Church is still active at its location on Warm Springs Road in Midland.

The separation of the black members reduced the church rolls. Despite valiant efforts, membership in Bethel began to slide as the population shifted from country to city. In January 1879, Bethel Church set up seven committees to "advance the interest of our church and promote the course of Christianity." The now familiar activities of visitations, caring for the sick, welcoming strangers, encouraging subscriptions to church publications, Sunday school work, and missions could not stem the decline. In 1877, Bethel reported 138 members; by 1890, there were only seventy-nine. (Membership would recover in the twentieth century before experiencing another decline in more recent decades.)<sup>40</sup>

With education remaining a main focus of the church, Reverend C. C. Willis and Bethel members pushed for the formation of Sabbath (Sunday) Schools. The pastor's son, Edward P. Willis, became superintendent of the Bethel effort. Nor was secular education neglected. In 1878, Bethel Church granted adjacent citizens the right to organize an academy on church property. At the Association level, C. C. Willis organized the first association-wide Sunday School Convention in 1879, which was held at Bethel Church. By that point the Columbus Association reported that a total of 931 "scholars" had enrolled. In a related activity, C. C. Willis, as Chairman of the Education Committee of the Association, stressed the need for every family to subscribe to the *Christian Index*, the official newspaper of the Georgia Baptist Convention. He led the Association to support a "colporteur" to distribute religious literature and urged (not always successfully) financial support for a ministerial student at Mercer University. Willis warmly spoke up for the education of girls as well as boys and supported the Baptist "female colleges" at La Grange, Rome, Forsyth, and Gainesville.<sup>41</sup>

Besides missions and education, another issue arose in the post-Civil War era: the "traffic in ardent spirits." The question became urgent when the pastor of Antioch Church in Harris County was found guilty of "frequent intoxication." The Columbus Baptist Association appointed a Committee on Temperance, which counseled abstinence as the wisest course. But if a person drank "in excess," churches might exclude the individual from their fellowship. (In the case of a tipsy pastor, confession and repentance would restore him to the bosom of his church.) Throughout the 1870s and 1880s, temperance continued as a hot button issue and the language grew more condemnatory. From advising against drinking in excess, pastors were soon urged to preach against "the evil" of strong drink. Finally, in 1877, C. C. Willis and others made a motion that the Association should resolve that it was "wrong for members of our churches to make, buy, sell, or drink, intoxicating liquors." In 1881, the Temperance Committee reported a growing sentiment toward "suppressing the evil."<sup>42</sup> The long march toward Prohibition had begun.

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<sup>39</sup> Bethel Church Minute Book 1829-1872; Barber, "Blacks and Whites Together", 13-14.

<sup>40</sup> Bethel Church Minute Book, 1872-1935. See also statistical reports in Columbus Baptist Association, Minutes, 1870-1890.

<sup>41</sup> Bethel Church Minute Book, 1872-1935; Columbus Baptist Association Minutes, 1881, 1886, 1887, and 1888.

<sup>42</sup> Columbus Baptist Association, Minutes, 1869, 1877, and 1881.



By the mid-1880s, C. C. Willis, now in his mid-seventies, asked to be relieved of the duties of moderator of the Association, although he continued to represent Bethel Church and remained on the Association's executive committee. In 1888, he was joined by his sons, Edward P. Willis and Dawson M. Willis, at the Association's annual meeting. That same year, the Columbus Association elected the elderly preacher as delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention.<sup>43</sup> During the winter of 1888-1889, Willis endured a long illness and Bethel Church used a supply pastor.

Recognizing clearly the need to put his affairs in order, on February 17, 1887, Cary C. Willis drew up his last will and testament, to which he added a brief codicil the following year. He named his wife, Mary F. Willis, executrix and his son, Edward P. Willis, executor of the will. He added son Dawson M. Willis as an additional executor when he drew up the codicil on December 28, 1888. He provided that the property, with minor exceptions, should be kept together for the support of his wife and unmarried daughters. After his wife's death, an unmarried daughter would be granted a fourth more than her equal-share with the other children. Allowances made to the married children were to be accounted for in the final division, then each would be granted an equal share of the estate. The share of daughter Jane C. Johnson was to be held in trust for her support by Dawson M. Willis; Edward P. Willis would hold the share of his son Nathaniel C. Willis in trust for his children. His wife, Mary F. Willis, would be given his watch. The codicil somewhat vaguely directed that "when Lovick Dimon whom I have raised shall reach his majority, if he remains with and true to my family" should receive a sum of money left to the discretion of the executors.<sup>44</sup> Withal, he made a fair and equitable distribution of his worldly goods among his wife and children.

Reverend Cary C. Willis managed to hold off the grim reaper for seven more years. In 1892, the Columbus Association offered prayers of "thanksgiving to God for sparing the life of our venerable brother C. C. Willis." In 1893, the Columbus Baptist body was moved to special prayers "for old brother Willis...we would not be surprised at any time to hear of his death."<sup>45</sup> When death did come on February 8, 1894, an outpouring of sincerely expressed grief, affection, and appreciation for his life followed. At its April 21, 1894 meeting, the Bethel Church conference adopted a memorial resolution that praised his faithful service as pastor for fifty-four years, describing him as "the very vital cord which has bound us together so long as a common brotherhood."<sup>46</sup> Later that year, in its annual meeting held at Harmony Church in Chattahoochee County, the Columbus Baptist Association also adopted a memorial resolution. It warmly referred to "our venerable and much esteemed brother, C. C. Willis" and noted that with his death "the cause of Missions has lost a true and efficient worker, and the cause of education has lost an earnest supporter." The body further agreed that a memorial page and a portrait of the deceased should be published in the printed minutes.<sup>47</sup>

Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, from North Carolina to Georgia, the Willis family had produced several Baptist clergymen. Cary C. Willis's life spanned nearly the whole of the nineteenth century—sixty years of which he spent in the Midland area of Muscogee County—"a period long enough to try a man." He arrived just as Muscogee County opened to white settlement and experienced its transition from rough frontier to a region of settled farms and plantations. He

<sup>43</sup> Columbus Baptist Association, Minutes, 1888.

<sup>44</sup> Will of Cary C. Willis, Muscogee County, Court of Ordinary, Will Book D, p. 100-103. Lovick S. Dimon, according to a source at [www.familysearch.com](http://www.familysearch.com), was born on 20 May 1875 in Muscogee County, died 25 June 1928 in Baldwin County, and was buried in Riverdale Cemetery, Columbus.

<sup>45</sup> Columbus Baptist Association, Minutes, 1892 and 1893.

<sup>46</sup> Bethel Church Minute Book, 1872-1935. His obituary appeared in the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, February 9, 1894. See also *Obituaries Published by the Christian Index 1880-1899*, (Macon, GA, 1982), p. 253.

<sup>47</sup> Columbus Baptist Association, Minutes, 1894.



excelled in this economy as farmer and community leader, becoming a model for the nineteenth century southern rural clergyman. In the florid style of the time, an 1881 biography described him as a zealous and passionate preacher, but also a "genial and lovable" friend, "most gentlemanly, honorable and high-toned in all his relations of life," "tender and conscientious" as a pastor, and "beloved and admired." Even allowing for the extravagant prose of the era, it is clear C. C. Willis had been unusually respected and loved.<sup>48</sup>

He had long associations with churches in Muscogee, Harris, Chattahoochee, and Stewart counties in Georgia, and preached at churches in Russell and Lee counties in Alabama. He guided Bethel Church for more than a half-century, caring for the spiritual needs of both black and white members during much of that time. His unusual personal qualities permitted him to lead his flock through a period of growth, and then provided stability during the era of hardship and decline following the Civil War. His congregation expressed its affection and gratitude by providing for his burial with a monument next to Bethel Church. Now, over a hundred years since his death, traces of his career and long life of service still linger in the social and religious history of Muscogee County and in the lives of his numerous descendants.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> *History of the Baptist Denomination in Georgia*, p. 590-591.

<sup>49</sup> In typical nineteenth century fashion, Cary C. Willis was *paterfamilias* to a large number of children: eight sons and nine daughters by two wives. A measure of the regard in which they held him is the fact that four of his sons each named one of their sons "Cary" (four first cousins named "Cary" must have made for some confusion at family gatherings). The name also appears among the children of three of his daughters as well. Cary C. Willis's second wife, his unmarried daughter, and one married daughter rest with him in the same memorial burial plot at Bethel Church. One son was killed in the Civil War; one son, Nathaniel Christmas Willis, moved to Texas then to Oklahoma; one daughter, Jane, moved to Texas but returned to Georgia when her husband died. The rest of the children lived in Muscogee or nearby Georgia counties. Edward P. Willis followed his father's footsteps as church clerk and in 1891 as Moderator of the Columbus Baptist Association. The "Notes on the Family of Cary Curry Willis," which follow this article, are in the Personal Ancestral File format of the Family History Society of Salt Lake City. The PAF has some eccentricities in its spacing and source citation style; the numbers following a person's name refer to source notes at the end of this section. Birth years for individuals were often taken from census reports and may not be accurate. The present writer thanks Willis descendants Lorene Christin and J. Edward Willis for sharing information about this family.





Fig. 1. Bethel Baptist Church  
Courtesy of Gary S. Sprayberry



## Notes on the Family of Reverend Cary Curry Willis

By

Hugh I. Rodgers

### First Generation

1. Reverend Cary Curry WILLIS<sup>1</sup> was born on 24 February 1809 in Baldwin County, Georgia. He died on 8 February 1894 in Muscogee County, Georgia.

Cary married<sup>2</sup> (1) Martha Ann STALLINGS<sup>3</sup> daughter of Saunders STALLINGS and Lucy on 8 October 1829 in Harris County, Georgia. Martha died on 23 December 1845 in Muscogee County, Georgia.

They had the following children:

- |   |     |      |   |
|---|-----|------|---|
| + | 2 M | i.   | William B. WILLIS was born in 1830. He died before 1898.  |
|   | 3 M | ii.  | Thomas Jefferson WILLIS "Jeff" was born in 1832 in Muscogee County, Georgia. He died on 22 September 1863 in Chickamauga, Georgia. He was buried in Marietta, Georgia. Thomas married <sup>4</sup> Elvira E. JONES in 14 February 1861 in Muscogee County, Georgia. |
| + | 4 M | iii. | Jesse Stallings WILLIS was born in 1834. He died on 16 August 1910.   |
|   | 5 F | iv.  | Mary E. WILLIS <sup>5</sup> was born in 1836 in Muscogee County, Georgia. She died on 22 August 1904 in Columbus, Georgia.  |

Mary was still single and living at home at the time of the 1880 census. A few years later she married an elderly widowed minister, Reverend William Amos. After his death in 1887, she married T.T. Watt. She is listed in the Bethel Baptist Church Minute Book, 1873-1935, in 1896, 1897, and 1899 as "Mrs. Mary Watt" or as "Mrs. T. Watt." One "T.T. Watt" is also named. The 1900 Census, Muscogee County, Georgia (Steam Mill), lists the members of the household as Mary Watt (age 62) with Tom Watt (age 33), Charley Watt (age 16), and Harry Watt (age 14).

Mary married<sup>6</sup> (1) Reverend William A. AMOS<sup>7</sup> on 19 August 1882 in Muscogee County, Georgia. William was born in 1804. He died on 2 October 1887 in Muscogee County, Georgia. He was buried in Pierce Chapel Road. Mary married<sup>8</sup> (2) Thomas T. WATT on 25 July 1890 in Muscogee County, Georgia. Thomas died in Columbus, Georgia.

- |  |     |    |   |
|--|-----|----|---|
|  | 6 M | v. | George Granberry WILLIS <sup>9</sup> was born in 1838 in Muscogee County, Georgia. He died on 15 November 1858 in Muscogee County, Georgia. He was named for his father's friend and fellow Baptist preacher of Harris and Muscogee counties. |
|--|-----|----|---|



- + 7 M vi. Edward Payson WILLIS was born on 21 April 1841. He died on 1 July 1923.
- + 8 M vii. Nathaniel Christmas WILLIS was born in 1843. He died in 1914.
- + 9 F viii. Martha L. WILLIS was born on 6 December 1845. She died after 1910.

Cary married<sup>10</sup> (2) Mary F. HUFF<sup>11</sup> on 16 June 1846 in Muscogee County, Georgia. Mary was born about 1825 in Lincoln County, Georgia. She died on 3 October 1898 in Muscogee County, Georgia.

Born Mary F. McClendon she had first married Nathaniel M. Huff on 30 November 1841 in Harris County. He was a son of Daniel and Mary Huff, members of Bethel Church. She joined Bethel Church by letter in April 1842. Nathaniel Huff died on 16 December 1843 "after an illness of 19 days, in his 23<sup>rd</sup> year of age, leaving a disconsolate wife and a numerous train of relatives and friends to mourn his irreparable loss." About eighteen months later she married the widowed C.C. Willis. According to her obituary in the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, 4 October 1898: "She is survived by seven children and five step children. Her children are Mrs. Beatrice Griffith of Atlanta; Mrs. Ellen Brooks, of Molena; Mr. D.M. Willis of Molena; Mr. C.J. Willis, of this city; Mrs. Ed Johnson, of Greenville, Tex.; Mrs. Lula Almond and Miss Lila Willis of Midland. Her step children are Mr. J.S. Willis, of Hawkinsville, Ga.; Mr. E.P. Willis, of Midland; Mrs. Mary Watt of Muscogee county; Mrs. Mattie Dodd, near Cartersville; Nathaniel Willis, of Indian Territory. ...[She will be interred] beside the remains of her late husband, who died a few years ago, at an advanced age. He was widely known and greatly loved and esteemed by all who knew him."

Cary and Mary had the following children:

- 10 F ix. Florence C. WILLIS was born on 8 April 1847 in Muscogee County, Georgia. She died on 5 February 1897 in Muscogee County, Georgia.  
Florence never married and cared for her parents in their old age.
- + 11 F x. Beatrice Ann Caroline WILLIS was born on 12 March 1849.
- + 12 F xi. Frances Ella WILLIS was born about 1851.
- 13 F xii. Georgia M. WILLIS<sup>12</sup> was born on 28 October 1852 in Muscogee County, Georgia. She died on 7 August 1896 in Muscogee County, Georgia. She was buried in Bethel Church.  
She is buried near her parents at Bethel Church; her husband was born in Harris County, Georgia. A date and place of marriage has not been found. According to her obituary she and her husband, Jonas R. Blow, lived in Brantley, Alabama, although she died at her mother's home in Midland.  
Georgia married Jonas R. BLOW<sup>13</sup> son of John W. BLOW and Caroline. Jonas was born in 1859 in Harris County, Georgia.
- + 14 M xiii. Cary Judson WILLIS was born about 1855.



- 15 F xiv. Jane C. WILLIS was born about 1857 in Muscogee County, Georgia. She died after 1910.

She was named as "Mrs. Ed Johnson of Greenville, Texas" in her mother's 1898 obituary. The 1900 Census of Greenville, Hunt County, Texas, shows Ed C. Johnson (40) and Janie Johnson (40); a child, Bessie Green, age 8, is in this household. In the 1910 Census Jane Johnson appears in the household of her sister, Ella Brooks, near Molena, Pike County, Georgia.

Jane married Ed C. JOHNSON.

- + 16 M xv. Dawson Moses WILLIS was born on 5 February 1860. She died on 3 January 1927.
- + 17 F xvi. Lula WILLIS was born on 12 December 1863. She died on 27 November 1951.
- 18 F xvii. Lila (Lillie) WILLIS was born about 1865 in Muscogee County, Georgia. She died after 1898.

So far as could be determined from public records Lila never married.

## Second Generation

2. William B. WILLIS<sup>14</sup> (Cary Curry) was born in 1830 in Muscogee County, Georgia. He died before 1898 in Chattahoochee County, Georgia.

He became a church member in September 1847 and received a letter of dismission in February 1852. He served as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Georgia Volunteer Infantry in 1861; resigned that same year, then enlisted as a private in Company B, 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Georgia Militia, July 1864, elected Captain in 1864. He lived in Chattahoochee County. He and Lucinda had nine children. See the Census 1880, Jamestown, Chattahoochee County, Georgia. His tombstone provides no dates.

William married<sup>15</sup> (1) Lucinda MCCLENDON on 12 December 1850 in Muscogee County, Georgia. Lucinda died before November 1883 in Chattahoochee County, Georgia.

They had the following children:

- 19 M i. Thomas D. WILLIS was born in 1854.
- 20 M ii. Charles D. WILLIS was born on 5 January 1858. He died on 15 May 1898. He was buried in Riverdale Cemetery.
- 21 F iii. Mattie F. WILLIS was born in 1861 in Chattahoochee County, Georgia. She died on 8 February 1908 in Americus, Georgia. She was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, Americus, Georgia.
- 22 M iv. William J. WILLIS was born in 1865.
- 23 M v. Robert L. WILLIS was born in 1867.



- 24 F vi. Ella WILLIS was born in 1869.
- 25 F vii. Loula WILLIS was born in 1873.
- 26 M viii. Edgar WILLIS was born in 1875.
- 27 M ix. Emmett WILLIS was born in 1877.

William married<sup>16</sup> (2) Georgia A. AUSTIN on 14 November 1883.

4. Jesse Stallings WILLIS<sup>17</sup> (Cary Curry) was born in 1834 in Muscogee County, Georgia. He died on 16 August 1910 in Hawkinsville, Pulaski County, Georgia. He was buried in Orange Hill Cemetery.

He was admitted to membership in Bethel Church in September 1847; Jesse S. Willis requested a letter of dismissal in January 1854. He became a well-known merchant and cotton buyer in Hawkinsville, Pulaski County, Georgia. The 1880 Census for that county (p. 323D) shows seven children in the household. This couple also appears in the 1900 and 1910 censuses of Pulaski County, Georgia, in Hawkinsville.

Jesse married<sup>18</sup> Amanda D. HORNE on 24 May 1859 in Dooly County, Georgia. Amanda was born on 25 September 1842. She died on 29 May 1912 in Pulaski County, Georgia. She was buried in Orange Hill Cemetery.

They had the following children:

- 28 F i. Mattie Clara WILLIS was born in 1860. She died in 1917 in Hawkinsville, Georgia.
- 29 M ii. Julien B. WILLIS was born in 1866 in Pulaski County, Georgia. He died in 1904.
- 30 M iii. William C. WILLIS was born about 1869 in Pulaski County, Georgia.
- 31 F iv. Annie F. WILLIS was born about 1871 in Pulaski County, Georgia.
- 32 M v. George WILLIS was born about 1874 in Pulaski County, Georgia.
- 33 F vi. Sadie WILLIS was born about 1876 in Pulaski County, Georgia.
- 34 F vii. Mary Clyde WILLIS was born in 1879 in Pulaski County, Georgia. She died in 1964 in Pulaski County, Georgia.

7. Edward Payson WILLIS<sup>19</sup> (Cary Curry) was born on 21 April 1841 in Muscogee County, Georgia. He died on 1 July 1923 in Muscogee County, Georgia.

He was baptized by his father in 1860. A farmer; after his first wife S.E. "Lizzie" Carter died he married her sister "Mattie" Carter in 1898. The Carters were a Talbot County family although some Carters were members of Bethel Church. The 1880 and 1900 Censuses for Muscogee County name his children. He appears many times in the Bethel Church Minute Books as church clerk and also in the minutes of the Columbus Baptist Association Annual Meetings.



Edward married (1) Sarah Elizabeth Carter "Lizzie"<sup>20</sup> daughter of Jehu Neal CARTER and Mary. Sarah was born on 29 July 1846 in Talbot County, Georgia. She died on 13 April 1895 in Muscogee County, Georgia.

Bethel County Minute Book, 1873-1935, has a memorial resolution for Mrs. E.P. Willis on 23 May 1895. Her tombstone reads: "Lizzie Willis, Wife of E.P. Willis, Daughter of Neal & Mary Carter 29 July 1846 – 13 April 1895." One Mary Carter (b. 1811, d. 1865) is on the membership rolls of Bethel Church. In this cemetery is also buried Lizzie's brother, John Neal Carter (1849-1882). Lizzie's sister, Martha Julie "Mattie" Carter, became Edward P. Willis's second wife. Their parents were Jehu Neal Carter and Mary; their grandfather was Jesse Carter of Talbot County who named his grandchildren in his will.

Edward and Sarah had the following the children:

- 35 M i. Robert Homer WILLIS was born about 1866 in Muscogee County, Georgia.
- 36 M ii. J.G. WILLIS was born about 1868 in Muscogee County, Georgia.
- 37 F iii. Eddie Darling WILLIS was born about 1873 in Muscogee County, Georgia.
- 38 F iv. Eva WILLIS was born in July 1881 in Muscogee County, Georgia.
- 39 F v. Bessie WILLIS was born in July 1883 in Muscogee County, Georgia.
- 40 M vi. Carey Cecil WILLIS was born in February 1886 in Muscogee County, Georgia.

Edward married<sup>21</sup> (2) Martha Julia CARTER "Mattie"<sup>22</sup> on 11 November 1898 in Muscogee County, Georgia. Martha was born on 26 August 1853 in Talbot County, Georgia. She died on 21 November 1942 in Columbus, Georgia. She was buried in Riverdale Cemetery.

Originally from Talbot County, one of three daughters of Jehu Neal Carter and Mary Carter. According to her obituary, she raised her sister (Mary Susan Carter Lennard)'s son, Joe E. Lennard, as her "son" following her sister's death at childbirth. Also, her obituary notes that she was a sister of Robert F. Carter, "prominent merchant and planter of Ellerslie." She was buried in Riverdale Cemetery. (Also buried in Riverdale Cemetery is "Mattie Carter Lennard, b. 1873, dau. of J.M. Lennard, d. 1894." James M. Leonard and Mary Susan Carter married in Talbot County, Georgia, 24 March 1859. They were on the Bethel Church rolls in 1860. The surname is spelled "Lennard" and "Leonard" in the records.)

8. Nathaniel Christmas WILLIS<sup>23</sup> (Cary Curry) was born in 1843 in Muscogee County, Georgia. He died in 1914 in Oklahoma. He was buried in Oklahoma.

He was named for near neighbor and member of Bethel Church since 1834, Nathaniel G. Christmas. In his will, drawn on 7 October 1848, Nathaniel Christmas left Nathaniel Christmas Willis, "the son of my friend Cary C. Willis, a negro boy by the name of Henry." Cary Willis was one of the witnesses to the will. Nathaniel C. Willis moved to Arkansas before 1870, then to Grayson County, Texas, before 1880. When the "Indian Territory" (later Oklahoma) was opened for white settlement in 1889, he moved there. The 1880 Census for Grayson County,



Texas, and the 1900 Census for township 5, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, shows seven children. He and his wife were living in Bryan County, Oklahoma, at the time of the 1910 Census.

Nathaniel married<sup>24</sup> Fletcher N. PEDDY on 10 September 1865 in Muscogee County, Georgia. Fletcher was born about 1846.

They had the following children:

- 41 F i. Mary B. WILLIS was born about 1868 in Georgia.
- 42 M ii. George W. WILLIS was born about 1870 in Arkansas.
- 43 F iii. Fletcher E. WILLIS was born about 1872 in Arkansas.
- 44 M iv. Cary F. WILLIS was born about 1876 in Arkansas.
- 45 F v. Florence WILLIS was born in 1878 in Texas.
- 46 F vi. Clarria B. WILLIS was born in 1883 in Texas.
- 47 M vii. Boylen WILLIS was born in 1885 in Texas.

9. Martha L. WILLIS (Cary Curry) was born on 6 December 1845 in Muscogee County, Georgia. She died after 1910 in Georgia.

The obituary of the second Mrs. C.C. Willis in the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, 4 October 1898, names a stepdaughter, "Mrs. Mattie Dodd, near Cartersville" (Bartow County, Georgia). A Martha Dodd, as wife of Joseph S. Dodd, with birth date of December 1845, does appear in the 1870, 1880, and 1900 censuses for Bartow County. Martha Dodd's widow's pension application on her husband's Confederate Service, dated in 1911, can be read in the "Virtual Vault" on the GDAH web page; it gives her maiden name as Willis. She had two surviving sons, one named Arthur WILLIS Dodd and one named Joseph CARY Dodd, indicating a connection to Reverend Cary C. Willis. The obituary of the Reverend C.C. Willis's first wife noted an infant only seventeen days old. That child seems to have been Martha L. Willis Dodd. The problem is the undocumented twenty years after Martha/Mattie's birth in December 1845. It seems inconsistent with what is known about Reverend C.C. Willis's character that his child was placed permanently with another family. Martha/Mattie cannot be found in the 1850 and 1860 censuses with any certainty (she is not in C.C. Willis's household). If she was placed in the care of another family she may be listed in census reports under that family's name. (There is one Martha Willis in the household of S.T. Carter in Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia, in the 1860 Census.) The marriage of "J.S. Dodd" and "M.L. Willis" in Macon County, Alabama, in 1865, seems to be the Bartow County, Georgia couple. "Mrs. Mattie Dodd, near Cartersville" is likely to have been the surviving eighth child of C.C. Willis and Martha Ann.

Martha married Joseph C. DODD, son of Christopher DODD and Sarah, on 20 July 1865 in Macon County, Alabama. Joseph was born in 1845 in Georgia. He died on 23 October 1906 in Bartow County, Georgia.

See Cass/Bartow County Census reports for 1850 through 1900 for Joseph C. Dodd. His obituary and tribute appeared in the *Cartersville News*, 1 November 1906 and 15 November 1906.



Joseph and Martha had the following children:

- 48 F i. Willie DODD was born about 1866 in Bartow County, Georgia.
- 49 F ii. Eddie DODD was born in January 1868 in Bartow County, Georgia.
- 50 F iii. Florence DODD was born in January 1872 in Bartow County, Georgia.
- 51 M iv. Arthur Willis DODD was born in April 1875 in Bartow County, Georgia.
- 52 M v. Joseph Cary DODD was born in January 1877 in Bartow County, Georgia.
- 53 M vi. David DODD was born about 1878 in Bartow County, Georgia.
- 54 F vii. Ida Pearl DODD was born in November 1880 in Bartow County, Georgia.
- 55 F viii. Martha DODD was born in October 1882 in Bartow County, Georgia.
- 56 F ix. Mary DODD was born in October 1882 in Bartow County, Georgia.
- 57 F x. Sallie DODD was born in August 1884 in Bartow County, Georgia.
- 58 F xi. Lila DODD was born in October 1887 in Bartow County, Georgia.

11. Beatrice Ann Caroline WILLIS<sup>25</sup> (Cary Curry) was born on 12 March 1849 in Muscogee County, Georgia.

A date and place of her marriage could not be documented by this researcher. In the 1910 census, she was noted as the mother of seven children, six of whom were living. In the mid-1870s she accompanied her husband to Texas where some of the children were born. She is mentioned in the *Butler Herald* of 3 July 1894 as Mrs. W.L. Griffith of Columbus whose ten year old son Howard drowned. She appears on the 1900 Census for Fulton County, Georgia, Enumeration District 80, with three sons, ages 21 to 12. In the same household is her daughter Florence L. Innis, and son-in-law William P. Innis, with two children. By the time of the 1910 census Beatrice is living in the household of her sister, Lula Almond, and her husband, in Muscogee County. Then by 1920, she lived with her son Walter Griffith in Davidson County, Tennessee. (There is undocumented data in FamilySearch.org, IGI, of her marriage in 1867 to William L. Griffith; another IGI submission puts her marriage in 1871, and her date of death as 18 August 1941. This could not be confirmed in Muscogee County marriage records. Her death could not be confirmed in the Georgia Death Index.)

Beatrice married William Leroy GRIFFITH.<sup>26</sup> William was born in 1847 in Taylor County, Georgia. He died on 28 April 1891 in Taylor County, Georgia.



William L. Griffith was the son of a Methodist family that produced several preachers; he moved his family to Texas where he served as a missionary before returning to Taylor County, where he died. His death notice appeared in the *Butler Herald*, 5 May 1891.

William and Beatrice had the following children:

- 59 M i. James Willis GRIFFITH was born in 1871 in Georgia.
- 60 M ii. Edward GRIFFITH was born in 1873 in Georgia.
- 61 F iii. Florence L. GRIFFITH was born in April 1876 in Georgia.
- 62 M iv. Harry H. GRIFFITH was born in January 1879 in Georgia.
- 63 M v. Walter Roy GRIFFITH was born in January 1882 in Texas.
- 64 M vi. Howard GRIFFITH was born in 1884. He died in 1894 in Muscogee County, Georgia.
- 65 M vii. Ignatious GRIFFITH was born in February 1888 in Texas.

12. Frances Ella WILLIS (Cary Curry) was born about 1851 in Muscogee County, Georgia. She died in Pike County, Georgia.

She may have been married to Henry Turnage (1866) before her marriage to Brooks. She lived in Molena in Pike County, Georgia, not far from her brother, Dawson M. Willis. She had one known child, a son. See the 1910 Census for Pike County. Jane C. Johnson, her sister, was in her household at the time.

Frances married John Newell BROOKS<sup>27</sup> about 1872.

He was a merchant in Molena, Pike County, Georgia, and active in the Molena Baptist Church.

John and Francis had the following children:

- 66 M i. John Willis BROOKS was born about 1893.

14. Cary Judson WILLIS (Cary Curry) was born about 1855 in Muscogee County, Georgia. He died in Muscogee County, Georgia.

Identified in his mother's obituary as "C.J. Willis" of Columbus. He was a member of the Columbus Police Department. In the 1900 Census for Muscogee County is a C.J. Willis, no age given, with Emma (age 47), and children: Claude and C.C., possibly twins as they have the same age (12); and Mattie, age ten. They are boarding in the household of Jas. R. Ramsey. An obituary for Mrs. C.J. Willis on 3 January 1915, named a son, Cary C. Willis, a daughter, Mrs. J.T. Whatley, and sisters Mattie and Claude Watt and Mrs. J.R. Ramsey, all of Columbus. The Watt and Ramsey families were early members of Bethel Church.

Cary married<sup>28</sup> Emma WATT,<sup>29</sup> daughter of Reverend James M. WATT and Theresa, on 14 January 1886 in Muscogee County, Georgia. Emma died on 2 January 1915 in Columbus, Georgia.



They had the following children:

- 67 F i. Claude WILLIS
- 68 M ii. Cary C. WILLIS was born about 1888 in Columbus, Georgia.
- 69 F iii. Mattie WILLIS was born about 1890 in Muscogee County, Georgia.

16. Dawson Moses WILLIS<sup>30</sup> (Cary Curry) was born on 5 February 1860 in Muscogee County, Georgia. He died on 3 January 1927 in Pike County, Georgia. He was buried in Molena Cemetery.

Dawson's wife had the very Confederately patriotic name of Jefferson Davis. The 1900, 1910, and 1920 Censuses for Pike County, Georgia, shows Dawson M. Willis with wife "Jeff" and children. He was a well-established merchant and cotton buyer in Molena and pillar of the Molena Baptist Church. (Lynn Cunningham, 544 West Road, Williamson, Georgia, 30393, provided some data on this family.)

Dawson married Jefferson Davis BAKER on 27 October 1891 in Pike County, Georgia. Jefferson was born 2 January 1862 in Pike County, Georgia. She died on 5 January 1918 in Pike County, Georgia.

They had the following children:

- 70 F i. Lucille WILLIS was born about 1893.
- 71 M ii. Cary WILLIS was born about 1895.
- 72 M iii. Paul WILLIS was born about 1897.
- 73 F iv. Bessie WILLIS was born about 1900.
- 74 F v. Ruth WILLIS was born about 1903.

17. Lula WILLIS<sup>31</sup> (Cary Curry) was born on 12 December 1863 in Muscogee County, Georgia. She died on 27 November 1951 in Muscogee County, Georgia.

The 1900 Census for Muscogee County, Georgia, names the children of this couple. Her obituary identifies her daughters as Mrs. W.O. Reich of Columbus, Mrs. P.J. Bolinger of Anniston, Alabama, and a son, R.H. Almond, of Atlanta. Lula married Richard Henry ALMOND<sup>32</sup> about 1878. Richard was born on 13 January 1853 in Muscogee County, Georgia. He died on 14 September 1916 in Muscogee County, Georgia.

They had the following children:

- 75 M i. Cary C. ALMOND was born in 1880 in Muscogee County, Georgia.
- 76 F ii. Emily R. ALMOND was born about 1884 in Muscogee County, Georgia.



- 77 F    iii.    Mary A. ALMOND was born about 1891 in Muscogee County, Georgia.
- 78 F    iv.    Florence L. ALMOND was born about 1894 in Muscogee County, Georgia.
- 79 M    v.    Richard H. ALMOND was born in 1897 in Muscogee County, Georgia.

### Sources

- <sup>1</sup> *History of the Baptist Denomination in Georgia* (Atlanta: Jas. P. Harrison Co., 1881), p. 590-592, Genealogy Collection, Columbus Public Library, Columbus, Georgia (lengthy biography of Reverend Cary Willis with portrait); Federal Census Reports, Muscogee County, GA: 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 (see also the Slave Schedules for 1850 and 1860 for Muscogee County); Bethel Baptist Church Minute Book, 1829-1872 and 1873-1935, bound manuscripts, Bethel Baptist Church, Columbus, Georgia; Muscogee County, Judge of Ordinary, Will of Cary C. Willis, Will Book D, p. 100-103, 28 December 1888 (submitted for Probate, 23 February 1894).
- <sup>2</sup> Mary Overby, ed., *Obituaries Published by the Christian Index, 1822-1879* (Macon, GA: Georgia Baptist Historical Society, 1975), p. 254, 16 January 1846.
- <sup>3</sup> Marriage Book 1, 1828-1860, Harris County, Georgia, p. 2.
- <sup>4</sup> Marriage Book E, Muscogee County, Georgia, p. 39.
- <sup>5</sup> Obituary, *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, 23 August 1904.
- <sup>6</sup> Marriage Book I, Muscogee County, Georgia, p. 110.
- <sup>7</sup> Louise C. Barfield, *History of Harris County, Georgia* (Columbus, 1961), p. 84 and 400.
- <sup>8</sup> Marriage Book K, Muscogee County, Georgia, p. 91.
- <sup>9</sup> Mary Overby, ed., *Obituaries Published by the Christian Index, 1822-1879*, p. 257.
- <sup>10</sup> Marriage Book C, Muscogee County, Georgia, p. 67.
- <sup>11</sup> Marriage Book 1, 1828-1860, Harris County, Georgia, p. 24; Obituary of Nathaniel M. Huff, *Columbus Enquirer*, 20 December 1843.
- <sup>12</sup> Marie Overby, ed., *Obituaries Published by the Christian Index 1880-1899* (Macon, GA: Georgia Baptist Historical Society, 1982), p. 19. Obituary of Mrs. Theresa Watt, b. 12 August 1821, d. 4 January 1891, wife of Reverend James M. Watt, mother of J.H. Watt, Mrs. J.R. Ramsey, Mrs. C.J. Willis, Mattie T. Watt and Claude J. Watt.
- <sup>13</sup> Federal Census, 1860, Waverly Hall, Harris County, Georgia.
- <sup>14</sup> Mrs. Hite, *Cemeteries of Fort Benning Georgia*, Cemetery #6.
- <sup>15</sup> Francies T. Ingmire, *Muscogee County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1835-1850* (St. Louis, 1985), p. 23.
- <sup>16</sup> Marriage Book 1-A, Chattahoochee County, Georgia, p. 288.
- <sup>17</sup> Hawkinsville Chapter, DAR, *History of Pulaski County, Georgia* (Atlanta: Walter W. Brown Publishing Co., 1935), p. 442; Robert K. Nobles, *Orange Hill Cemetery, Hawkinsville, Georgia, 1833-1992* (Warner Robbins, GA: Central Georgia Genealogical Society, 1993), p. 53 and 73; Tad Evans, *Pulaski County, Georgia Newspaper Clippings, 1898-1907, Vol. 5* (Savannah, 2001), passim.
- <sup>18</sup> Nora Powell and Watts Powell, *Historical and Genealogical Collections of Dooly County, Georgia, Vol. 1* (Vienna, GA: 1973), p. 253. Transcription error in marriage date; reads 1859, but should read 1869; see Marriage Book B, Dooly County, Georgia.
- <sup>19</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hanna, *Cemeteries in Muscogee County, Georgia* (Columbus, GA: 1979), #4 and #30.
- <sup>20</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Hanna, *Cemeteries in Muscogee County, Georgia*, #4 and #30; William H. Davidson, *A Rockaway in Talbot County, Georgia, Vol. 3* (Privately printed, 1988), p. 322-329. The Carter family had moved from Warren County to Talbot. Jesse Carter (1793-1868) became a wealthy merchant and planter in Talbot County. He named his granddaughters in his will: Sarah Elizabeth



Carter Willis and Mary Susan Carter Lennard. A third granddaughter, Martha Julia "Mattie" Carter, became the second wife of Edward P. Willis. His son, Jehu Neal Carter, had predeceased him in 1858. James M. Lennard was one of the executors of his will.

<sup>21</sup> Marriage Book M, Muscogee County, Georgia, p. 336

<sup>22</sup> Obituary, *Columbus Ledger*, 22 November 1942.

<sup>23</sup> Will Book A, 1838-1842, Court of Ordinary, Muscogee County, Georgia, p. 102-103.

<sup>24</sup> Marriage Book E, Muscogee County, Georgia, P. 410.

<sup>25</sup> Federal Census, Fulton County, Georgia, 1900; Muscogee County, Georgia, 1910; and Davidson County, Tennessee, 1920.

<sup>26</sup> Marilyn N. Windham, *Marriages, Deaths, etc of Taylor County, 1876-1896* (Warner Robins, GA: Central Georgia Genealogical Society, 1995), p. 136; Harold Lawrence, *Methodist Preachers in Georgia, 1783-1900* (Tignall, GA: Boyd Publishing Co., 1984), p. 217.

<sup>27</sup> R.W. Rogers, comp., *History of Pike County from 1822 - 1922* (Zebulon, GA: 1922), p. 33-35.

<sup>28</sup> Marriage Book I, Muscogee County, Georgia, p. 577.

<sup>29</sup> Obituary of Mrs. C.J. Willis, *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, 3 January 1915; Marie Overby, ed., *Obituaries Published by the Christian Index, 1880-1899*, p. 243.

<sup>30</sup> R.W. Rogers, comp., *History of Pike County from 1822-1922*, p. 33- 35.

<sup>31</sup> Obituary, *Columbus Ledger*, 28 November 1951.

<sup>32</sup> Obituary, *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, 15 September 1914.



**"Harris County"**  
from  
**Georgia Historical and Industrial**  
by the  
Department of Agriculture

Transcribed by Gary S. Sprayberry

*Georgia Historical and Industrial* was published in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1901 by the Franklin Printing and Publishing Company. This excerpt provides detailed information about agricultural and industrial production, services, demographics, and tax and property statistics in Harris County. It also includes a brief description of Hamilton, the county seat. The Muscogee County section was published in Volume 18, Number of 2 of *Muscogiana*. The original is located in the Columbus State University Archives.

Harris County

*Harris County* was laid out from Troup and Muscogee in 1827. A part was given back to Muscogee in 1829. It was named in honor of Charles Harris, Esq., an eminent jurist of Savannah. It is bounded on the north by Troup and Meriwether counties, on the east by Talbot, on the south by Muscogee, and on the west by the State of Alabama, from which it is separated by the Chattahoochee river. It is well watered by Mulberry, Sowhatchee, Standing Boy, West End, Flat Shoals, Old House and Mountain creeks, all of which empty into the Chattahoochee.

The face of the country is much varied, and so is the soil. The Pine Mountains enter the county near its northeastern corner, and Oak Mountain on the east. Above the Pine Mountains the country is level with a light soil, productive when new, but not lasting. West of the center it is a broken, rich country, heavily timbered. In the valley between Oak and Pine Mountains the soil is gray, while the growth is Spanish oak and hickory. South of the Oak Mountain all the way down Mulberry creek to its union with Chattahoochee river, the soil is rich. With lands so widely different in point of fertility, the averages of production differ according to location of land as well as manner of cultivation. The average production to the acre is: seed cotton, 600 to 900 pounds; corn, 8 to 15 bushels; oats, 15 to 25 bushels; wheat, 8 to 10 bushels; rye, 5 to 8 bushels; barley, 20 to 50 bushels; sugar-cane, 75 to 300 gallons of syrup to the acre; Irish potatoes, 50 bushels; sweet potatoes, 50 to 100 bushels; field-peas, 5 to 10 bushels; ground-peas, 10 to 20 bushels; crab-grass hay, 2,500 pounds; corn fodder, 450 pounds.

There are no dairy farms, but most families have milch-cows. The total number in 1890 was 2,847, with a production of 671,384 gallons of milk and 200,661 pounds of butter.

A good deal of interest is manifested in the rearing of beef cattle, and this has led to improvement of the breed. The total of all kinds of neat cattle in 1890 was 6,962. Much attention is given to poultry, and the domestic fowls of all kinds numbered 87,571, and produced 125,679 dozens of eggs. The product of the bee-hives amounted to 20,803 pounds. Four hundred and forty-five sheep gave a wool-clip of 944 pounds. There were 8,518 swine, 890 horses, 2,213 mules, 7 donkeys, and 313 oxen.

Vegetables of every kind are raised, and fruits of many varieties, but almost exclusively for home use.



Pine and Oak Mountains afford large quantities of lumber which the sawmills are getting ready for building or manufacturing purposes. The sawmills are generally operated by steam.

The Chattahoochee river abounds in water-power for factories of all kinds. Some of the citizens of West Point, just across the line in Troup county, availing themselves of these water-powers, have established cotton-mills on the river just below the town, extending into Harris county. The citizens are anxious for cotton factories and cotton seed oil-mills.

Hamilton, the county site, with a population of 418, on a branch of the Central Railroad, is beautifully located between Pine and Oak Mountains. The court-house cost about \$12,000. The Methodists and Baptists have churches here. There are good schools, one for boys and one for girls. The Hamilton district has 2,278 inhabitants. The whole county is well supplied with schools and churches. Hamilton is 22½ miles from each of the following cities and towns: Columbus, LaGrange, West Point, Talbotton and Greenville. Hamilton has a canning factory, a broom factory, and a shoe factory.

ChIPLEY, on the Central Railroad, has bank with a capital of \$25,000 and two sawmills. On this same road are Summit and Cataula. ELLERSLIE, Waverly Hall and Shiloh are on the Southern.

There are altogether 66 miles of railroad in the county. The cotton receipts and shipments from railroad stations in the county number 12,500 bales, and according to the United States census for 1900, for the season of 1899-1900, there were ginned 22,852 bales of upland cotton in Harris county.

The area of Harris county is 486 square miles, or 311,040 acres. Population in 1900, 18,009, an increase of 1,212 since 1890; school fund \$12,355.43.

By the Comptroller-General's report for 1900 there are: acres of improved land, 268,194; of wild land, \$3,901; average value to the acre of improved land, \$3.14; of wild land, \$0.74; city property, \$104,168; money, \$120,340; merchandise, \$61,500; stocks and bonds, \$11,280; cotton manufactures, \$92,100; mining, \$800; value of household furniture, \$73,828; farm and other animals, \$160,591; plantation and mechanical tools, \$35,861; watches, jewelry, etc., \$3,718; value of all other property, \$38,828; real estate, \$958,733; personal estate, \$641,985. Aggregate property, \$1,600,718.

Property returned by colored taxpayers: number of acres of land, 12,513; value, \$34,962; city property, \$2,885; merchandise, \$150; household furniture, \$13,769; farm and other animals, \$31,317; plantation and mechanical tools, \$6,960; value of all other property, \$13,261. Aggregate property, \$116,084.

The tax returns for 1901 show an increase of \$90,044 in the value of all property since 1900.

In the 39 schools for whites there is an average attendance of 939, and in the 51 for colored the average attendance is 1,662.

Population of Harris county by sex and color, according [to] the census of 1900: white males, 2,884; white females, 2,939; total white, 5,823; colored males, 5,999; colored females, 6,187; total colored, 12,186.

Domestic animals in barns and inclosures (sic), not on farms or ranges, June 1, 1900: 21 calves, 11 steers, 19 dairy cows, 21 horses, 31 swine, 1 goat.



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